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CHIEF EDITOR:
JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR:
YU SHANSHAN
DESIGNER:
ZHAO YAN

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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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memories
with bahok



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early for
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South China trapped under ice



Heavy snows and freezing rain influenced almost half the country. Transportation has halted, electricity and water supplies stopped, people are stranded in railway stations and airports. According to the China Meteorological Administration forecast, over the next 10 days, the bad weather will continue in south China.

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English tutor
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China

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Classics with
a curious cast

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Pregnant inmate's treatment 'surprisingly humane'

By Wang Chuyang

Chun Yan (anonym), 32, who had killed two children and escaped the death sentence because of pregnancy, received a special treat in the Beijing Female Prison as she will give birth to a child.

This is the first time a female inmate has had such special treatment in Beijing Prison Management history.

The law stipulates that a criminal sentenced to life imprisonment

may only serve his time in prison.

Chun, eight months into her pregnancy, was sent to prison under escort. The prison hospital brought in experts for her prenatal examination and prepared a homelike room with pink blankets, clothing and baby shoes.

Having never imagined such treatment in prison, Chun wept with gratitude.

A pregnant woman on trial cannot be sentenced to death, Jian Hongma, a lawyer from Xiao

Luzhao's law firm in Beijing, said. Women who are expecting a child at the time of arrest or during trial are subject to protection from the death sentence; they may instead serve time under house arrest or in a rehabilitation institution.

However, women deemed a danger to the public may only serve their time in prison.

Under Chinese law, a fetus is considered innocent, and should not be punished for the acts of its carrier.



Chun Yan waits for her child's birth in the prison hospital.

Photo by Belly Chen

Lighting up the Nest



All the lights in the Bird's Nest were tested Tuesday evening. The stadium glowed brilliantly at night.

Photo by Gong Wenbao

City's first counselor ready to guide

By Li Fenghua

Jiang Huiyu, the first registered guidance counselor in Beijing, has already made great strides in helping Beijing Xingzhi New Citizen School students.

School guidance counselors are new to the Chinese mainland, but have a long history in much of the west and in Hong Kong.

Jiang, who graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, is the first guidance counselor to work in the capital. Since she arrived last July, most of her students have been children of peasant workers.

Guidance counselors use pro-

fessional knowledge to assist and improve the study atmosphere and help students advance in school life.

There are currently three million social workers on the mainland, but the guidance counselor system remains in its infancy. Relevant services, such as the qualification exam, registration and the salary distribution for social workers require improvement, Xu Yongguang, committee member of the National Political Consultative Conference, said.

According to the findings published by the Guangzhou Municipal Party Committee, as many as

70 percent of the provinces young people can expect to get help from social workers in study, life or finding employment.

"Children of peasant workers need social workers most," Huang He, principal of Xingzhi New Citizen School, said. "Jiang has done a very good job in helping to socialize these children and introduce them to social resources. She makes a good connection between school and home," he said.

As of now, only several mainland cities have introduced professional social workers in school. Shenzhen has introduced social

workers for primary and middle schools. The one school one counselor system is to be established soon in Shenzhen and the government will pay for it.

Xu said the government worked out rules to promote development of social workers in the mainland, but problems remain before full implementation can happen.

"The exams for the social workers will be organized this June. It will be graded as assistant social worker, social worker and advanced social worker," Xing Li, assistant to the Media center of China Association of Social Workers, said.

Park uses birth control for Siberian tigers

By Gan Tian

As few as 50 Siberian tigers became pregnant last year at the Siberian Tiger Park in northeast China, which has 200 tigresses of cub-bearing age.

The park, the world's biggest artificial breeding base of this kind, based in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, decided to clamp down on the tiger birth rate because the number of big cats is becoming a burden, Liu Dan, a park official, said.

To raise one Siberian tiger costs the park an average of 10,000 yuan per year. Birth control allows the park to ease the burden and save the costs. Tigers with "imperfect genes" are not allowed to get pregnant, which is a way to ensure only high-quality cats continue to breed.

The park was established in 1986 with eight tigers. Today, it houses as many as 800: half the total in China. The Siberian tiger is listed as "endangered" on the Red List of Threatened Species of the World Conservation Union and is in Appendix I of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, which bans the trade of live tigers or tiger parts.

Orphan school's president makes ad for fund raising

By Zhang Dongya

Guang'ai Orphan School has received more support and donations since its president and students appeared in an advertisement for Finbid, a brand-name ibuprofen pain relief medicine.

The 45-second ad, which brought in 250,000 yuan, shows president Shi Qinghua and his 103 orphans studying and living together. Burdened with the roles of both teacher and father, the president suffers aches as he shifts between classroom and kitchen.

Guang'ai Orphan School, a private school for orphans and poor children, was founded by Shi four years ago. The school had seven

orphans when it began, and its student body has since grown to more than 100 students ages 5 to 17.

As a non-governmental school, Guang'ai must provide all operation funds on its own. To maintain students and teachers costs 40,000 yuan per month, along with a 50,000 yuan yearly rent payment.

"Ogilvy Public Relations called me to ask permission to shoot a medicine ad. They said they thought the children and I together would convey a warmhearted, loving feeling," Shi said.

It was hard for the president to agree to the ad, since he worried it may have a negative impact on the



Guang'ai's ad appearance has boosted school support.

students or cause social dispute. At a school meeting held by the president, staff agreed to film the ad and use the money for the school and its orphans.

Shi said he was satisfied with the

ad, and that it accurately reflected the school's difficult past.

"The children are very happy to be on TV, and the ad shows them as cheerful and healthy," Shi said.

Affairs, rumor or phenomenon in Chinese marriage?

Telling survey results

China Business Week, a weekly magazine, and Sina.com conducted an online survey on modern couples' views of marriage earlier last month.

The survey collected feedback from 9,000 men and 5,000 women: 50 percent were 30 to 40 years old, and more than 50 percent had been married seven or more years.

The results were significant.

When asked whether they could remain faithful in their marriage, most men answered no and most women answered yes.

Most women responded that when tempted to start an affair, they would hold back because "it is against common social mores."

Men said it was acceptable for them to have an affair because "everyone else does."

Women responded that they would end an affair to protect their family, while men answered that they could keep a balance between their own family and their mistress.

When women started an affair, they said it was to pursue a "true emotional connection," while men were more interested in excitement.

"What will you do if you find your spouse is having an affair?"

More than half of all male respondents said they would file for divorce, while female respondents said they would keep it quiet to protect the family, especially their child.

However, according to the survey, both men and women agree that communication is important when something goes wrong in a marriage. Marriage is not something easily discarded.

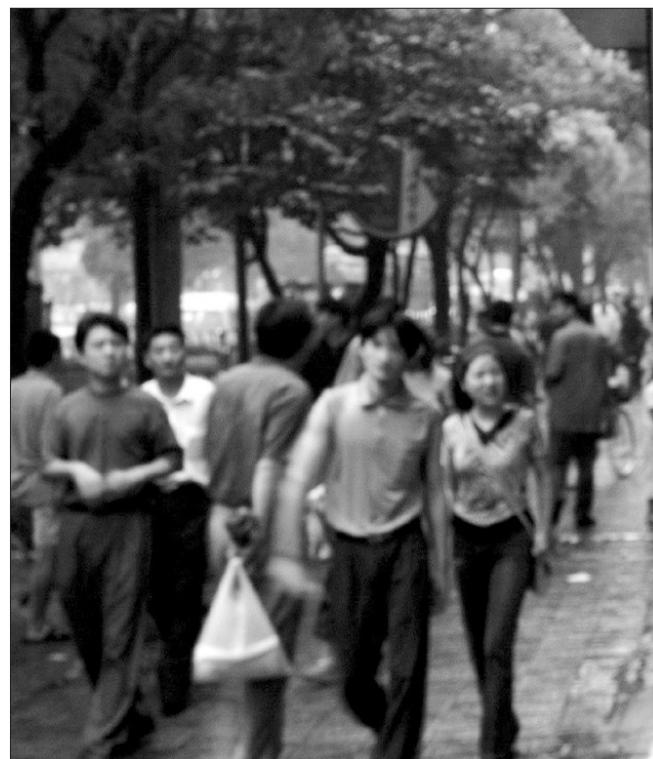
Top marriage killer

According to Ministry of Civil Affairs' published data on its portal, the country's divorce rate is growing every year. The divorce growth rate from 2005 to 2006 rose a slow seven percent, while the rate from 2006 to 2007 reached 68 percent. There were 1.9million couples divorced in 2006 and 3.21million in 2007.

According to the research done by Ding Wen and Xu Tailiang, authors of *Great Changes in Modern Chinese Families*, 25 to 30 percent of divorces in the late 1980s to early 1990s were due to exposure of extramarital affairs; the figure held at steady 40 to 50 percent since the mid-1990s in well-developed areas.

Yang Xiaoling, 39, a marriage lawyer and director of the Beijing marriage law net, said affairs are the driving force behind the divorce bind. In 2007, Yang took 60 divorce cases with 75 percent of clients ages 35 to 45, including CEOs of listed companies, college professors, TV hosts or hostesses and well-paid professionals.

Chang Lianyong, CEO of Best Hunter, a private investigating company, said all his clients had an above middle-level income. "At first, they just came to Chang with a hunch, but results turned out to be



By Annie Wei

The trials and tragedies of China's real desperate housewives has been national gossip this year. A Beijing TV anchor confronted her philandering husband in public, and another woman threw herself to her death from 24th-floor window.

Many people joke about jilted lovers as if it will never happen to them; other people are growing more cautious and suspicious of marital issues. Infidelity in Chinese marriages is a reality – those who have not been cheated on likely have a friend who has been.



Zhou Hongwei (middle), 41, a peasant from Luoyang, Henan Province, asked his family and friends to aid his TV episode based on personal experience with affairs. Zhou said he wanted to share his lessons with others.

Photo by Zhang Xiaoli

pretty serious," Chang said. One of Chang's core businesses is to look for evidence of an affair. The service costs 8,000 yuan, not including highway chases, flights from Beijing to Shanghai and hotel fees.

Affair v marriage

After five years of marriage, Hao Xiaoxing, 30, a business reporter found her marital life boring.

"Recently, I've had thoughts of finding a lover," she said.

Hao said the main reason was

because her husband had changed from a college sweetheart into a boring, fat middle-aged bureaucrat who criticizes her all the time.

"Marriage is run by both people's efforts, but in the end, I feel like I am the only one trying to make it work," Hao said.

Zhang Hao, a real estate seller in his late 20s, went crazy when his wife wanted a divorce. She said she met someone else, and was not interested when he said he would forgive her.

Although men are more likely

to initiate affairs, they tend to be more conservative and nervous about marriage.

Chang Lianyong, CEO of the private investigating company, said more men came in to investigate wives' affairs than wives suspicious of husbands.

Xiao Huiming, founder of a local marriage consulting firm, said divorce is more stressful for men than for women. People born in 1950s tend to care about what others think, while people in 1980s care only about themselves, he said.

The most stressed-out group is people born in 1960s and 1970s. "To divorce or not is something they care a lot about. What will happen to their job? Their career? What will others think of them? Children? Parents? What about their own feeling?" Ke Yunlu, a writer who focuses on love and marriage, said.

Ke said few Chinese men ages 30 to 40 have never had an affair. "They want to be good husbands and good wives, and they also want to enjoy affairs. But they do not want their affairs to be known by others, not their parents, their children or the public," he said.

Yang Xiaoling, divorce lawyer, agreed there is a generation gap. Many of his clients from the 1960s and 1970s spend a long time making the decision.

Exaggerated stories

Sociologists think the high divorce rate is due to the country's dramatic changes during the last two decades.

The end of the 1970s to the middle of the 1980s was the country's first major divorce wave.

Many city people returned home after years of labor in the countryside, and the cultural revolution began. They filed for divorce

from their spouses in the countryside, and with speedy economic growth in 1990s, taking a mistress or second wife was trendy among many groups.

However, Xu Anqi, vice director of the Shanghai marriage and family research association, said she did not think extramarital affairs were as serious as described in the media.

"TV episodes and magazines about family issues are full of affair stories. It seems like no one would watch or read them otherwise," Xu said.

According to her association's research, 70 to 80 percent of families, including people from rural areas and old people, are satisfied with their marriage and family.

When research was conducted among ordinary families, the affair rate turned out to be very low, Xu said. "Some interviewees might deny having an affair, which means people still believe it is something shameful or immoral."

The affair rate among ordinary families was as low as 4 percent, according to research by Li Yinhe, a female sociologist.

The rate was higher in families where couples are already divorced. According to Xu's research, 20 to 30 percent of couples born in 1950s because of affairs. The figure remains similar for those born through the 1980s.

"The percentage varies by region, local cultural values and economic development," Xu said.

In her research, affair-inspired divorce hovered at 30 percent in Guangdong Province and Shanghai, but was lower in northeast China. She said it was because heavy-industry areas have a less optimistic economic outlook.

Xu said the online survey reflects only a fragment of public opinion.



Nobody knows when the bad weather will stop. Photo by Cheng Shi



Heavy snows have shut down expressways. Photo by Guo Liliang



A father taking care of his son, waiting for the train back home.

Photo by Zhang Yifei

South China the big freeze

By Jackie Zhang/Li Fenghua

Since January 10, more than ten provinces and cities have been ravaged by heavy snows and freezing rain. Transportation has halted, electricity and water supplies stopped, people are stranded in railway station and airports. The bad weather influenced almost half of the country. According to the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) forecast, over the next 10 days, the bad weather will continue in south China.



Millions of people are stuck in railway stations and airports. Photo by Chen Zhuo

The reasons

Yang Guiming, the CMA's top forecaster, said the two conditions that caused the snow and rain are warm and wet air from the south and tropical areas and the cold air from the polar regions and other extremely cold areas.

Cold air from the north and northwest continued entering the mid-east and southern regions of China and, as a result, the snowy and rainy weather continued. The extreme strength comes from the La Niña phenomenon. Its change influenced the whole atmospheric circulation.

Future forecast

At a press conference Wednesday, Central Weather Bureau officers announced that a new round of freezing weather would roll in Thursday.

Jiao Haiyan, dean of the China National Meteorology Center, described the general weather conditions of January and analyzed the recent horrific snowstorms.

Over a three-day period, there will be heavy rain in Southern areas of Yangtze River, rainstorms in parts of this area. Heavy snow may occur east of Tibet, northwest of Yunnan, in the middle and northern parts of Hunan, the northern area of Jiangxi, the middle and northern areas of Zhejiang and the southern areas of Jiangsu and Anhui. Blizzards will occur in some of these areas, according to the weather report from the Central Weather Bureau.

Premier Wen Jiabao's visit

Tuesday morning, Premier Wen Jiabao arrived in Changsha, Hunan Province, to visit local residents and examine the salvage work.

Due to the inclement weather, Changsha airport was closed. Wen arrived in Wuhan, Hubei Province, first on Monday evening and then transferred to Changsha at midnight.

In the meeting he had with local officials in Changsha, the premier said that local

governments in the disaster provinces and regions must be made aware of the lack of coal, electricity and oil.

Wen said that, since the bad weather was predicted to continue for a few more days, the backup for resources was most important to guarantee people's lives.

Early Wednesday morning, Wen arrived in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, visiting passengers detained at the railway station.

Measures taken



Electrical wires and equipment frozen.

Photo by Xiao Jinming

The conference, hosted by President Hu Jintao, emphasized that transportation and electricity must be ensured.

So far, the Central Finance and Economic Commission has appropriated funds of 293 million yuan in total. Up until Tuesday, the Red Cross Society of China had transported 51,500 overcoats to disaster areas.

In Hunan Province, 100,000 soldiers were sent to clear ice off the Jingzhu Expressway. Governor of Guangdong Province, Huang Huahua, said at a provincial conference Monday, that the province now was facing its biggest challenge in electricity supply, and when necessary, some enterprises would have their electricity use limited. In Jiangxi Province, all the schools have closed and students do not need to go to school starting Monday.

The One Foundation of Jet Li, a famous actor, decided to donate 950,000 yuan to 14 disaster provinces.

Traffic nightmare

Up until Wednesday, there were nearly 800,000 people detained in Guangzhou due to the traffic blockages on the Jingguang railway route and Hukun railway route. More than 100,000 passengers were stalled in Shanghai, Ningbo and Hangzhou. And thousands were halted in Hefei, Nanchang, Wuhan and Kunming.

Compared with earlier conditions, the airport was in much better shape. But there were still eight airports closed until Thursday. Many scheduled flights had been cancelled during the disaster.

Most expressways had been closed and traffic jams occurred on most of the national expressway routes.



Three electricians died during wire repair.

Photo by Shi Zhenzuan



A boy waiting to go home at the railway station. Photo by Tan Weishan

The areas hardest hit in China

Hunan Province suffered the most during the recent big freeze, the worst since 1954 with about 25 million people affected by the severe weather. Seven people reportedly died, 31 thousand houses collapsed and the electricity in Hunan was in short supply due to the breakdown of electrical systems.

According to the weather facts in Anhui Province, the

snowstorm lasted about 20 days which tops the longest in their documented history. More than 9 million people suffered during the weather nightmare and 4 died, as of press time. Over 4,000 hectares of crops were damaged which caused about 34 billion yuan worth of economic loss. In some areas of Anhui Province, the accumulated snow reached

50 centimeters.

The freezing snow broke old weather records in Guizhou Province and the electricity supply system was seriously damaged by the freezing conditions which caused power failures in more than 41 cities and counties. About 0.3 million people ended up short of water in Zunyi, Guizhou Province.

Last Sunday, heavy snow

occurred in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, and the temperature dropped to minus 12 centigrade. The heavy snow caused a lot of problems and there were serious traffic jams in the city. Up until Thursday, the transportation woes of Henan had almost disappeared with railways, expressways and airports gradually returning to normal.

Investors expected to develop US stock funds

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is expected to sign an initial agreement with China that may lead Chinese banks to establish mutual funds targeting US stocks, the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday.

Citing a person familiar with the situation, the report said the expected deal between SEC and the China Banking Regulatory

Commission (CBRC) will help Chinese investors find new destinations for an estimated private savings pool of US \$2.4 trillion.

The pending US-China agreement for banks modestly expands the existing channels of outside investment. Under it, banks in China will be permitted to design their own US stock funds – instead of selling products on behalf of other firms like mutual-

fund companies.

The newspaper said the SEC declined to comment on the reported plan, while a bank-regulatory-agency spokesman in Beijing referred to past statements the agency has made that it has already penned similar agreements with counterparts in Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK, and will set them soon with the US, Germany and Japan.

The prospect of money bidding up overseas markets is tempered by a long-standing reluctance to invest overseas, the report said, noting that funds focused on foreign securities have not performed well domestically.

It added that the constantly strengthening yuan will make investors even more hesitant to make dollar-based investments.

(Agencies)

CITI to form China investment bank venture

Citigroup and Central China Securities will soon apply to Chinese regulators to set up an investment banking joint venture, two sources briefed on the situation told Reuters, Sunday.

The new company would be Citigroup's first investment banking venture in China. It already helps Chinese companies list in Hong Kong, but involvement in the country's domestic investment banking business would be an important expansion.

The plan could also indicate that the large US bank remains committed to growth in large and attractive emerging markets such as China despite the damage it has suffered in the US subprime mortgage crisis.

Earlier this month, Citigroup announced 4,200 job cuts after it posted a record US \$9.83 billion quarterly loss.

Under its deal with Central

China Securities, a medium-sized brokerage based in Henan Province, Citigroup would apply for permission to own the maximum allowable 33 percent stake in the venture, said the sources, who declined to be identified as they were not authorized to speak to media.

Citigroup spokeswoman Shannon Bell had "no comment" about the deal. Central China Securities could not be reached for comment.

An official announcement of the deal is expected to be made this week, the sources said.

Citigroup has been looking for a Chinese brokerage partner to set up an investment banking venture for years. The deal with Central China Securities comes after failed efforts to make similar arrangements with Chinese firms, the sources said.

(Agencies)

Chinese retail real estate enterprises debut at RECon

By He Jianwei

Chinese retail real estate enterprises will first attend the Global Retail Real Estate Convention (RECon) from May 18 to 21 in Las Vegas, US, Marvin Morrison, Vice President at Programs and Services in International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), said last Thursday night in Beijing.

This year's RECon will have a show ground to display retail real estate enterprises. As one of the members of ICSC in China, Rongding Investment & Development will organize 30 enterprises to join in the exhibition, in which 60 percent will be developers and the rest will be retailers and agents for retail real estate.

"Chinese real estate enterprises need expertise to direct their development, and they must learn from past mistakes," Morrison said.

He said this May's RECon will be significant for China's real estate enterprises and it will be a good chance to learn from each other. "Through the discussion and exhibition, the

world will know China, and China will bring the world's experience back," he said.

Oscar Zhang, president of Rongding Investment & Development, said 30 enterprises will exhibit on the show ground, and 300 Chinese enterprises will attend some forums and discussions with real estate enterprises.

"It is a new field for China in developing the shopping centers. We don't have much experience or expertise in this new field," Zhang said.

ICSC, the global trade association of the shopping center industry, aims to advance the development of the shopping center industry, to encourage research into the architecture and design of shopping centers and to collect and disseminate information among members pertaining to profitable operation techniques.

Its 70,000 members in the US, Canada and as many as 80 other countries include shopping center owners, developers, managers and marketing specialists.

Gucci launches new branch in Shanghai



American actress Sharon Stone modeled Gucci's new Spring line in Shanghai Wednesday. Gucci announced the same day its launch of a new branch in Pudong district, Shanghai.

IC Photo

McDonald's to open 150 outlets in China

By Huang Daochen

McDonald's plans to open 150 outlets in China in 2009, the company's top China executive said Tuesday.

The company expects to maintain 15 percent annual growth for the next few years, Jeff Schwartz, China CEO, said.

"In 2008 we will open a minimum of 125 stores, and we are thinking about 150 in 2009, and continuing to ramp that up a little bit," Schwartz said.

The firm plans to spend US \$2 billion on capital expenditures in 2008, and sell up to 21 percent of its company-owned restaurants to franchisees over the next few years to focus more resources into fast-growing markets such as China, Russia and India.

The expansion plans this year and next come on top of its network of around 800 restaurants across the nation.

Atos Origin becomes IPC's worldwide partner

By He Jianwei

Atos Origin signed an agreement with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in Beijing to become its Worldwide IT Partner Monday afternoon at the Sports Training Center for Disabled Chinese Athletes.

It signed an agreement with the National Paralympic Committee of China (NPCC) to sponsor Li Duan and Bian Jianxin, two Chinese Paralympic athletes, in defending their titles at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

Under the agreement between Atos and the IPC, Atos will contribute to the development of the Paralympic Movement through the creation of a system which is designed to manage the athlete's data, including results, biographical and classification information.

Nokia supports young Chinese entrepreneurs

By Gan Tian

The All-China Youth Federation, the China GuangHua Foundation, and Nokia (China) Investment co-hosted the Nokia Young Entrepreneur Education Program (NYEP) award ceremony at the Great Hall of the People last Saturday.

The NYEP program was initiated by the three parties to encourage and support college graduates eager to become entrepreneurs. Six students who made it through the strict selections and appraisals by the judging panel won gold prizes in the NYEP Contest.

At the beginning of last year, GuangHua and Nokia signed the Nokia Young Entrepreneur Education Program Fund agreement. Under it, Nokia donated more than 6.7 million yuan to GuangHua to set up the NYEP Fund.

Stir over 'wacky' government website

By Huang Daohen

One ministerial Web site this week deleted its public question and answer section, and one local government Web site was found to sell illegal drugs. The exposure has drawn public attention to the function and sovereignty of the government's official Web sites.

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MST) Web site became suddenly popular because a bunch of netizens posed silly questions which were addressed seriously.

For instance, one netizen claimed to be a middle school student and asked, "My little doggie has fallen ill and not eaten for several days. Can the uncles or aunties at the Ministry of Science and Technology tell me how I can make my little dog better?" "We recommend that you take your little doggie to the veterinary hospital for

treatment," the reply said.

Other examples concerned how to apply for rights to a perpetual motion machine and the future of Chinese soccer. When asked about what to do about a "very yellow and very violent" pop-up Web page, the answer was to install anti-virus software on the computer.

Appreciative netizens began to cross-post these Q&As elsewhere, which drew more visitors to the ministerial Web site to post even sillier questions. As a result, the staff has been deluged with questions.

That Web site deleted all the questions in the end.

Similarly, a couple of days ago, a netizen made the claim that the government Web site from Wanning city, Hainan Province, was carrying an advertisement for a knockout drug.

Indeed, in the section on product supply information, there was an item called "Knockout drug supplied." The item itself provided detailed descriptions of the knockout drugs delivered by cigarettes or spray devices together with compositions, prices, methods of application, possible adverse effects and the contact info of the supplier.

The item was no longer found on Wednesday. The working staff member surnamed Yuan answered the phone said the drug post was a mistake. "Some one must have deliberately posted it for fun. We never came across such a thing before," Yuan said.

The Chinese Government launched its official Web site on January 1, 2006, and it was rare to see such incidents before.

Expert view

These two amusing incidents present a unified theme when considered together – the issue of how the government and citizens connect with each other.

It is said that billions of yuan are spent each year on government Web sites, but nobody has actually evaluated the effectiveness.

When the Web site administrators fall asleep on the watch and

let advertisements for illegal products slip through, people think it is funny. When the Web site workers get too serious and formal, people think this is funny, too.

Therefore how can a government Web site provide what the people want to see and elude poor taste at the same time?

They need to plan in advance and set up some smart and meticulous standards.

For example, use their authority to increase information content which meets the needs of the public, instead of deleting the contents or banning netizens.

More generally speaking, they must follow the logic of existence on the Internet.

— Bi Shuzhi, a commentator with the Southern Metropolis Daily

Comment

Others should follow suit

These Q&As on the MST Web site have delighted netizens because that a central government department Web site is apparently willing to answer every and any frivolous question.

For them, the spirit of MST is something that all other government

departments should emulate.

— Zhang Hong, local resident

Netizens' typical behavior

The key point is that most of the posts online are deliberately frivolous. Netizens should be aware of their behaviors. Act according to relevant law.

— Joseph, college student

Builder beware!

I have no idea how an illegal advertisement was permitted to be posted. But it's true that poor management and belated information updating exist a government web site. The government should pay attention to that.

— Littleblack, netizen

Dogged determination

By Annie Wei

Zhao Jian, a 59-year-old Beijing doctor, has written many emails to various government agencies since May 2006 to get his husky properly registered. In the capital, a dog without a licence can be removed by the police at any time.

When the local government announced that improving dog issues had been added to the 2008 agenda, Zhao wrote to the local government authorities again to suggest some cor-

rections to city regulations regarding canine size.

According to city regulations, dogs taller than 35 centimeters are not allowed in many parts of the city.

So far, China has not yet set up a proper national law regarding animal protection. As a result, there is no legal way to stop some dog owners from abusing their dogs or cats; there are strict regulations for dog owners to be fully responsible for their dogs' behavior such as barking in public

and biting pedestrians.

The only regulation on the books now limits the size of dogs.

Zhao said that larger dogs do not mean that they are violent or aggressive. In fact, many bigger-sized breeds like Golden Retrievers or Labradors are very gentle and obedient.

The concerned dog owner not only wrote emails to authorities, he also wrote many articles and placed several Internet postings at pet forums under the pen name "Gala."

Comment

Dog dough

Dog owners pay 1,000 yuan for registration. Related authorities should use that money to do something for the dogs and their owners.

— Zhao Ling, dog owner

Learn from Shenzhen style

I think the Shenzhen government handles dog cases in a good way. At the end of September 2006, the Shenzhen government issued a blacklist of 28 dog breeds deemed ferocious.

During a week-long period set aside for public comment on the policy, the government received over 300 emails and 100 letters

asking that German Shepherds be dropped from the list. We will respect the citizens' opinions. It is possible to take the German Shepherd off the list.

— Zhu Haibo, an intellectual property lawyer

Figures don't measure up

How do you define big dogs? According to a dog raising guidebook edited by a professor from the Agriculture University, tiny dogs are no higher than 25 centimeters like Chihuahuas; small dogs are between 26 and 41 centimeters like Chokerspades; middle dogs range 41 and 61 centimeters like Chow-Chows and big size dogs are catego-

rized at higher than 61 centimeters, like Great Danes.

So where does the government get the "no taller than 35 centimeters" measurement from?

— Zhao Jian, doctor

Unleash the law

When I returned to Beijing from the US, I realized the environment of raising dogs here is similar to what it was like in the US in the 60s. But I think peoples' awareness of having pets and the relative pet laws will improve step by step. I am sure one day the 35-centimeter regulation will be removed.

— Echo Lee, financial analyst



Calling for ethical treatment for animals

This picture shot on Monday shows an animal protection volunteer in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province inside a small pet cage, calling for people's awareness of the ethical treatment for small animals.

CFP Photo

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Years of Passion for China

First introduction to China

Arce, 77, was selected as the president of the Peruvian Journalist Association when he was 25 in 1956. At that time, he showed interest in knowing the newly-established China. With some progressive young people, he organized a Peru-China Friendship Association to collect information about China and hoped to develop friendly contacts through these non-governmental channels. As the President of the Peruvian Journalist Association, he often took part in world journalists meetings, and the opportunity to get involved with China appeared.

In the winter of 1960, Arce came to China with a group of Latin American journalists. He was very excited, for it was his first visit to the country. Chairman Mao met the group, and it left him with a deep impression. From then on, he forged a special tie with China. Availing himself of every chance, he came to China frequently. He wrote many articles about China based on his personal encounters and published them throughout the Latin American media. For a time, he became a recognized columnist on Chinese affairs in Latin America.

God bless the child

In 1967, Arce returned to China to work for the Spanish Department of Radio Beijing (now China Radio International). This time, his wife came to Beijing and their daughter Meimei was born in the capital city in 1970. Unfortunately, not long after the child was born, she got leukemia and was sent to Beijing Children's Hospital. As foreign experts working for an upcoming conference document translation department, he was forced to reside in the urban areas of the city and could not go home. Though worried, he put his work first.

When Prime Minister Zhou learned of the professor's dilemma, he ordered relevant agencies to spare no effort to save the Peruvian girl.

Arce remembers what happened and the excitement transformed his life. "Zhou Enlai," he said, "always carried in his heart the desire to provide welfare to the people."

Making diplomatic ties

In late April, 1971, the first delegation of New China, headed by Zhou Huamin, then deputy minister of Foreign Trade, visited Peru. Arce, who witnessed an impressive leap in the development of bilateral relations, offered

By Wang Chuyang

He did not even know about China 50 years ago, but today he is deeply attached to this country. Antonio Fernandez Arce, a professor from Peru, now lives in Shijiazhuang in Beijing.

What does China mean to this old professor who chose to settle in the capital? I had no idea how he would address this question before my visit, but had a very clear picture when saying goodbye. China, for the professor, is the country that witnessed his youthful years of dedication, the love he found and the friendship and achievements he made.



Arce and his wife Hu Weiling.



Li Xiannian, front row center, receives Arce, third from right, in 1977.
Photo provided by Antonio Fernandez Arce

Photos by Wang Chuyang

to be a volunteer guide and accompany the delegation.

In June, a Peruvian trade delegation visited China. The two countries decided to set up trade representative offices. Arce, who was adviser to the Peruvian Trade Office, came again to China and worked on preparations to open the office and promote trade ties between the two nations. In its first year, the entity achieved remarkable results. On November 2, 1971, both sides announced the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Sleepless in China

From 1983 to 1997, Arce worked as Spanish language expert in Xinhua News Agency. This decade saw his growth and a deeper understanding of this country. Every day he learned much through reading the lines of the documents. During this period, he felt the huge dif-

ferences countries and nations could make dealing with the same issues. China held a political conference, for example, and he paid more attention to the process of Chinese politics and the source of the conference.

When he found some reports related to China during a flight, he instantly filed it away for his future perusal. He had published a number of articles in Latin American newspapers to introduce China.

His China doll

Arce and wife named Hu Weiling have supported each other for more than 20 years. They met at a dance held by the Friendship Hotel. At that time, Hu had just finished her studies in Thailand, and she was quickly fascinated by Arce's humor and charm and cared nothing about his background, income and wealth. And it was not until they got married



Antonio Fernandez Arce



Zhou Enlai, right, welcomes Arce, in 1960.

Photo provided by Antonio Fernandez Arce

that she actually learned what his occupation was. Even so, they still helped each other in hard times regardless.

She was touched by Arce's persevering work ethic. It was often the case that she saw him at the Xinhua News Agency bent over his desk concentrating on his work. From his daily life to professional life, she was meticulously considerate of her husband and becomes an all-around assistant, whether answering phone calls or sending out documents.

Bound to Beijing

Professor Arce has worked in China for 20 years. For this he was chosen as a "foreign expert with outstanding contributions" by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs.

He has settled down in Beijing. Recently, he was invited to serve as senior adviser to the Spanish News Channel of CCTV, continuing to contribute his wisdom in press exchanges and cultural areas between China and other countries. While he recalled the days he spent in China, he said with great emotion that it was a long and winding road of more than 40 years that he traveled with the growth of this young People's Republic.

Arce's son studies international relations at Peking University. When the professor mentioned this, he laughed and said, "I hope he will be an ambassador in the future."

Pictures provoke pachyderms!

By Huang Daohen

An American tourist was critically injured by a wild elephant in a tropical forest reserve in southern China, according to the local Chuncheng Evening News.

The victim was identified as Jeremy Allen McGill, who teaches English at Huanong Agricultural University in Wuhan, Hubei Province.

McGill was found unconscious by a security guard last Thursday at the Wild Elephant Valley nature reserve in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, the report said.

The guard called the doctor and the victim was later transferred to the people's hospital in Xishuangbanna. McGill suffered eight broken bones and injuries to his lungs and intestines, Jin Mingyi, the doctor in charge of McGill's case, said.

"Following an operation lasting several hours, he had stitches up to 40 centimeters long on his stomach," Jin said.

The local foreign affairs office gave no details about McGill's hometown. The reason why he was attacked was still unclear, an official surnamed Chen with the office said.

"The elephant used its trunk to pick the man up and then let him go," Chen was quoted by the Associate Press as saying.

The animal disappeared by the time McGill was found, he said.

As of press time, the victim is still hospitalized in the Xishuangbanna People's Hospital and remains in critical condition.

The injured man will be transferred to a hospital in Thailand for treatment, as required by McGill's insurance company in the US, according to the Chuncheng Evening News.

The Huazhong Agricultural University is aware of the incident and has sent a specialist to Yunnan to handle the situation, a working staff member at the school's propaganda department who only gave his surname Huang said.

Elephant attacks have occurred before at the Xishuangbanna area, according to past media reports. In 2006, a tourist was attacked by four elephants while she rested at the side of the road near a nature reserve.

Experts suggest tourists do not snap pictures when traveling in wild elephant areas, because the attacks occurred mostly after the pachyderms were spooked by camera flashes or loud noises from visitors.

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Eighth Beijing Expat Temple Fair spices up Spring Festival

By Zhang Dongya

It is a tradition for people to visit a temple fair during Spring Festival. Going to a "yang temple fair" influenced by foreign factors may be a new trend.

The Eighth Beijing Yang Temple Fair will be held on the first day of Spring Festival and lasts for eight days at the Shijingshan amusement park. The annual fair since 2000 is sponsored by the park and supported by the Beijing Municipal Cultural Bureau and Shijingshan District Government. It was named "the favorite temple fair" by the Beijing Municipal Cultural Bureau in 2007.

For the first time, the park is divided into different districts according to the five continents. Foreign performance groups from all over the world will be invited to display their national programs with totally exotic costumes on parade floats. It will be a sea of color with seven novel floats, "the Egypt Queen's phoenix float" and different kinds of band music presented by the British Royal Band.

In addition, there will be thousands of types of foreign food to tickle your taste buds including Bavarian roast pork, Californian roast chicken and Italian pizza.

As Valentine's Day arrives after Spring Festival, a blind dating event, Absolute 100, will be held in the Eastern Garden. A special activity will be held for 14 affluent and rich men to find their "Ms Right." They will publicly express their personal view and value of love and even their potential talents. The activity host said that all these "special persons" had to provide personal assets certificates.

Since it is the year of the rat in China, people who born this year can save half off admission.

Where: Shijingshan amusement park

When: February 7-14

Admission: 10 yuan

Tel: 6886 2547



Daguan Yuan temple fair is hiring foreign students in town to perform Dream of the Red Mansion, the most famous Chinese literary work during Spring Festival.

Photo by Ouyang Xiaofei

The city has tons of temples with dozens of fairs, but few fairs have a long history and current popularity. Most of them open on the first day of the first lunar month and continues for half the month.

Changdian

The Changdian Temple Fair is one of the city's oldest, and has been held to celebrate the festival for 400 years. It began in Ming Dynasty (1368-1683).

Where:

Nanxiaojie, Guangqumen, Chongwen District

Baiyunguan

The Baiyunguan Temple Fair began in Yuan Dynasty (1206-1370). At first, the fair was a small one with scattered performances limited to the gate. Starting from Ming Dynasty, activities increased both inside and out.

Where: Baiyun Lu, Fuxingmenwai Dajie, Xicheng District

Longtanhu

The main feature of the Longtanhu Temple Fair is its sports competitions. Winter swimming, Chinese martial arts, wrestling, taekwondo and xiangqi, Chinese chess, competitions have been held with professional players from national teams invited to compete with visitors.

For this year's competition, the focus will be on the Olympic Games.

Where: 8 Longtanhu Lu, Chongwen District

Ditan

The Ditan Temple Fair draws more than local snack vendors: foods from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Sichuan Province are readily available. Listening to the shouts of folk artists hawking their goods is a way to travel back to the city's past.

Where: 18 Heping Li Zhongjie, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

Events

Beijing Longqing Gorge Ice Lantern Festival

Located 80 kilometers north of Beijing, Beijing Longqing Gorge (Longqingxia) is best known for its outdoor gallery of massive blocks of ice carved into animals and figures of all shapes and sizes. Fireworks, performances, tobogganing, skiing, ice fishing and ice slides add to the festival's fun.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: February 2, 4 pm - 10 pm

Cost: 250 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341

Trip to Nanshan Ski Resort

Cycle China organizes a trip to Nanshan Ski Resort in Miyun County, with trails for skiers of all levels, mogul trails and a half-pipe.

Where: Meet at the West Gate of the Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang District

When: February 2, 8 am

Cost: 350 yuan

Tel: 6402 5653

African dance classes

High-energy Kukwua dance is choreographed to African, Caribbean and Latin rhythms. Women, men and teens are welcome.

Where: River Garden Villas, Hou Shai Yu Bai Xin Zhuang, Shunyi District

When: February 4, 8 am

Cost: 80 yuan per class

Tel: 8046 5289

Traditional tuina massage

Learn traditional Chinese massage from licensed therapists. Class conducted in English.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: February 4, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Tel: 6432 9341

(By He Jiawei)

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It's OK to wine at work

By Gan Tian

Expect free wine-tasting parties at your office some time soon? Some red wine agencies recently have set up in office buildings, bringing along some tasting parties for workers. It could become a regular event.

Last week, Aussino World Wines, an agency based in the Kunlun Hotel, held a wine-tasting party in front of its wine cellar. Though different from a formal drinking occasion, it attracted office workers from nearby buildings. Ten bottles of red wines variously labeled, were offered for customers to taste for free. The hosts prepared free cookies and desserts.

The party featured small lectures on how to taste wine and table manners.

Luo Ruanyu, 41, an advertising manager, praised the event. "I need to attend some foreign clients' parties, so I need to upgrade my knowledge of red wine. This is a good opportunity," he said. Zhou Huiyin, 24, a secretary, said she paid more attention to the wine's health and she would be benefits more willing to buy it.

Customers could walk into the cellars to buy the red wine on the spot. More than one thousand kinds of red wine were stored with prices ranging 50 to 10,000 yuan.

A secretary surnamed Yang of the company told *The Mirror* that the cellar has only been open for half a year. The company's plan was to target high-class customers in office buildings. It is also a good way to promote the company's products as the temperature is perfect for storing the wines.



Wine tasting is getting popular in cities like Beijing and Shanghai.

Photo by BES

Wine cellars have entered the city's top office buildings. Below are some places to find them:

ACS Fine Wine

Where: O-P, F6, Building B, Donghuan Guangchang, East Gate Plaza, 9, Dongzhongjie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6418 1598

Aussino World Wines

Where: B1, Kunlun Hotel, 2, Xinyuan Nanli, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6461 2072

Summerrage International

Where: F17, Han Wei Plaza, 7, Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6562 1800

Jebsen Fine Wines

Where: F10, Building 2, Henderson Center Office Tower, 18, Jianguomen Nei Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8519 8688

Does anyone know where I can buy real whole wheat flour with a good brown hearty color, full of vitamins, fiber, and nutrients? I have been dying to cook some good bread and all I need is the flour. Anyone seen it?

You can try the organic sections of supermarkets. There are more and more organic food deliveries to Beijing. You can Google them online. Or you can find them at Lohao City: lohaocity.com

I have a basic bank account with the Bank of Beijing and I am looking to send some money home to Britain using a PayPal account. Does PayPal accept Union Pay cards or am I going to have to open a different account with another bank which uses Visa debit cards? If so, which banks use Visa?

PayPal does not accept UnionPay cards. You're better off opening a British PayPal account. A possible way to get money to Britain using PayPal is to give someone your RMBs and have him transfer the equivalent from his funded PayPal account into your British PayPal account, and then transfer that money into your British bank account.

Outside of PayPal, you can wire money into your bank account with Western Union for a fairly high fee. Bank of China will wire money out of China if you have an account with them. The only drawback with Western Union is that you have to change your money into US dollars before giving it to them.

Does anyone have any travel suggestions for visiting Hainan this winter? Where can we stay? What is there to do? When are there fewer people?

There are three areas that travelers always visit in Sanya. They are Sanyawan, Dadonghai and Yalongwan. Sanyawan is cheaper for shopping, Dadonghai is convenient for shopping and getting around and Yalongwan is the most expensive one but has the most beautiful sand beach when compared with Sanyawan and Dadonghai. After Spring Festival and up to March or April is a low season for travel in China. During that season, it is much cheaper.

There must be an easier way to get train tickets besides standing in line for hours only to be told that they are "sold out." Any suggestions?

A lot of travel agencies will book train tickets for you. Some may charge a 50 yuan service fee for each ticket. They have connections and can often get tickets which are hard to get, likely to sell out quickly or already sold out quickly.

(By Li Fenghua)

Free museums nationwide



An exhibition of how traditional Beijingers celebrate Spring Festival is in the National Museum, which has not opened to public for free yet.

Photo by Lu Xu

By Jackie Zhang

The notice about free admittance to museums was released last Wednesday. According to the notice, all public museums belonging to cultural and relics departments in different regions in the country will be open to the public for free.

Cultural relic sites and historical remains will still charge visitors, but will continue their favorable policies towards children, old people, soldiers, disabled persons and people of low-income groups.

At present, a plan to gradually open museums for free in Beijing is under discussion. As some of the museums in Zhejiang, Hubei Province and Tianjin have already adopted this plan, related officials from the Municipal Government have gone to observe and establish a similar plan for Beijing.

Shu Xiaofeng, deputy director general of Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage said, there are 150 museums in Beijing, which meet the standard in medium-developed countries in the world.

Since most of the museums in Beijing are in old buildings and some are situated in residential communities, the number of visitors must be controlled to protect these old landmarks.

"To open all the museums for free can't be done in one step. We need relative policies, emergency policies and provide nice facilities," Shu said.

To date, there have already been some parks and museums opened for free, like Ritan Park, Lido Park and Haidian Museum.

Identity crisis

Eight people from different countries stumble upon each other in the waiting room of a railway station. Several chairs sit on the stage and a large sign hanging in the middle of the stage displays railway schedules.

A passenger from China asks a woman sitting nearby from whence she came. The woman doesn't know and begins to search her body for clues.

An East Indian man sits close by and when she realizes his origin, she tries to talk with him about Buddha, temple, Jesus, church and the importance of origin. It seems that the fellow knows his origin, so he rejects her conversation and leaves.

As she is left alone on the chair, she asks herself where she came from. When she spots another passenger who looks like a Russian, she shouts to him, "Where are you from? Do you think you are a Russian? Maybe your father is a Russian and your mother is a Russian, but how about your grandfather and your ancestors?"

The performance begins with the question, "Where are you from?"

Bahok is a Bengali word meaning carrier. In bahok, the new company piece by Akram Khan, he brings together eight dancers from very diverse, cultural backgrounds: Chinese, Korean, Indian, Slovakian, South African and Spanish.

"In one of these globalized world transit zones, they come together. They try to communicate, to exchange stories and memories of home," Guy Cools, dramaturge, said.

Home is where the heart is

Khan is British-Bengalese. He always wonders where his home is and what the home means. He grew up on a street in London that was also home to two Chinese families, an African family and a Spanish family.

"When I was eight, all the children went to the same schools. If we went to the Chinese students' house, it was like visiting China," Khan said.

But when he came back to Bangladesh, he found that it was not the same in his parents' house. "We have to maintain our individual culture as well as having a universal connection," he said.

"We are all travelers. We are all voyagers. Born into this world, embodied, we can only move forward. But we are also carriers. We are all bahok. We carry with us our genetic and cultural inheritance, our experiences, our dreams and aspirations," Cools said.

Asked about memories of home, most of the dancers' homes became memories and those memories remain in their childhood.

Wang Yitong, the ballet dancer from the NBC left home and studied dance at age 12. She described her memory of home as an old and small house in which she lived with her parents. "Although the house was old and small, it represents the warmest period in my life," she said.

An Indian dancer, Saju, believed his home was his head. He saw his house destroyed by his father's family in his childhood. Another dancer from the NBC,

Meng Ningning, thought that where the family is, is where the home is.

Memories make the dance

As the railway schedule board changed from "Rescheduled" to "Delayed," the dancers developed his or her individual story.

A Chinese passenger (Wang Yitong) fell asleep and had a dream; another Chinese passenger (Zhang Zhenxin) fought with another passenger because of a PlayStation 2 (PS2); a South African passenger (Shanell Winlock) carried a pair of her father's shoes on her journey; a Korean passenger (Kim Young Jin) remembered his experience of a lost home in his childhood when he saw a man spitting in public.

"All stories are about the journey of our body through life; its birth and origin, the search and quest for its identity, its transformation, its death. All stories are both unique and universal. Regardless of our cultural background, our stories resemble each other and reveal the same underlying themes," Cools said.

After four weeks working with the dancers in Britain, Akram Khan came up with the stories. Khan asked each dancer to describe home, a dream and a nightmare. He tried to create stories from the dancers' lives.

"The dancers are the writers of the show. They are the ones





By He Jianwei
“For nomads, home is not an address, home is what they carry with them,” John Berger, a British novelist, painter and art historian, wrote in his *Hold Everything Dear*. Three dancers from the National Ballet of China (NBC) together with five dancers from the British Akram Khan Company gave the world premiere of *bahok* at Beijing’s Tianqiao Theater last Friday. These eight dancers from six different countries use their body movements to illustrate what home is.

bring the source material. We search for the stories that they bring with them and by exploring each individual tale, we find a bigger story. That's what fascinates me, by bringing these personal stories on stage, we reveal a more universal one,” he said. Khan believes a dancer must show his or her own character on stage. A dancer is not like an actor. Actors have their own technique to fulfill the requirement of their roles. He created an episode based on the dream of Wang Ling. “Her face always seems moody, but actually, she is happy. She always looks sleepy and we don't know whether she is asleep or awake,” he said. When Khan asked the dancers what their connection to home was, the dancers told him it was their mobile homes. “If we use machines to connect to home, who connects who?” he said.

Mixing ballet with modern dance

The collaboration with the NBC represents a continuation of Khan’s interest in combining different dance traditions to create a new and original dance vocabulary.

When Khan watched the NBC’s *Raise The Red Lantern* in Britain, he decided to work with the company. “The subtleness and sensibility in their movements was something I hadn’t seen in other ballets,” he said.

Meng Ningning, one of the principal dancers in the NBC, didn’t know how to do it, when Khan asked him to perform an improvisational contemporary dance for one hour.

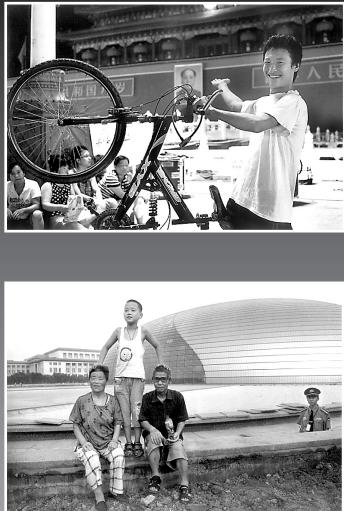
“The ballet has well-defined boundaries for its movements. The directions of the head and the hands are very strict. But contemporary dance has less limitations,” he said.

Ballet dancers tend to break these boundaries while contemporary dancers usually create boundaries. Khan had learned classic Indian dance previously. As well as ballet, the classic Indian dance also has boundaries. When he brought Indian dance, ballet and contemporary dance together, “I wanted to create a new boundary for each dancer,” he said.

Finally, when all the dancers looked up at the schedule board, several sentences were printed on it. “Are you lost? You look lost. Do you know where you are going? Machines don’t feel. What is in your papers? Air. Water. Fire. Earth. But no address. What are you carrying? Body. Memories. Home. Hope. Home.”

No matter what kind of dance vocabulary Khan adopted in the performance, he succeeded in conveying the question of home to the audience.





A mid-summer night's Beijing

By He Jianwei

From dusk till dawn last August 8, 35 photographers from 11 countries captured the changing metropolis Beijing through their cameras. The results of their shoot have been sorted and collected in *One Night In Beijing* (edited by Adam Pillsbury, 225pp, Immersions Guides, US \$35), a new photography book.

The city's 15 million residents celebrated in private and public to com-

memorate the one-year-countdown to the 2008 Olympic Games. Crowds gathered around Olympic countdown clocks and fireworks exploded in Tian'anmen Square; photographers fanned out around the city to capture the moment.

Their destinations ranged from the heights of the Great Wall to the depths of a construction pit, from sunset at the Drum Tower to sunrise over Ritan Park. The photographers captured the faces of migrant workers, retirees, foreign students, children, athletes, tattoo artists and Buddhist nuns.

Pillsbury came up with the project to "reflect the city's energy and diversity" in December, he said.

"Instead of working with just one photographer, or asking photographers to submit pictures of Beijing taken over an indefinite stretch of time, we decided to create a composite portrait of the city on a single night, from sunset on August 8 to sunrise on

August 9," he said.

The date he chose was exactly one year to the day before the start of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. "It would both be an ordinary summer night, with people going about their lives, and an important milestone on the road to the Games, filled with pageantry and excitement," he said.

From the beginning of the project, Pillsbury wanted to have as much diversity as possible. The photographers involved in the project include photojournalists and art photographers, veterans and youngsters, artists working in black and white and others working in color, photographers using digital cameras and others using film.

"We also wanted to recruit photographers from many nationalities. The more viewpoints, we felt, the better," he said.

For photography destinations, he brainstormed list of locales he wanted photographed, and also asked photographers where they would like to take photos.

Then they plotted all the locales on a map and coordinated schedules in two-hour slots to make sure there would be no overlap.

"After that, we applied for authorization to shoot in venues such as hospitals, the CCTV tower, Niu Jie Mosque, restaurants and inside people's homes," he said.

Pillsbury and his staff picked through all the submitted photos. "The criteria were artistic merit, subject matter, variety and geographical and chronological distribution," he said.



How to turn a frown upside down

While Beijing may have appeared in the list of China's 10 happiest cities last November, that does not mean life in the city is made of sugar, spice and everything nice.

According to author of *Happy for No Reason: 7 Steps to Being Happy from the Inside Out* (336pp, Free Press, US \$14.97), Marci Shimoff, as few as 30 percent of people report being deeply happy, and the World Health Organization predicts that by 2020, depression will be number two to heart disease in the global health burden.

But Shimoff, who has

devoted her past years to public talks on how to achieve goals and reach happiness, says the blues are something everyone has the power to beat.

"I came out of the womb filled with existential angst. I was the brooding five-year-old who was worrying about the condition of the world while everyone else was watching *Romper Room*," she writes.

Scientists have found that each person has a "happiness set point," a genetic and learned tendency to remain at a certain level of happiness, she says. While the genetic factors cannot be changed, anyone can learn to

be happier.

"I saw the happiest people I knew weren't the most successful and famous. Some were married, some were single. Some had lots of money, and some didn't have a dime. Some even had health challenges," she writes.

Desperate to unearth what has been the holy grail of psychology since ancient times, she threw herself into the study of happiness and positive psychology, she says.

Shimoff covers daily habit changes and tricks to help bring a bit more sun into a reader's rainy outlook, and relaxing and energizing exercises to inspire

positive energy.

The barriers to the ultimate end goal? Fear and anxiety. While essential to survive the last several millennial, ancient apprehension is no way to approach life in a modern metropolis.

Schimoff has authored or co-authored several other best-selling books: *Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul*, *Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul*, *Chicken Soup for the Single's Soul* and *Chicken Soup for Every Mom's Soul*. She is also a contributing writer for *Ladies Home Journal* and *Woman's World*.

(By Derrick Sobodash)

Happy for No Reason

7 Steps to Being Happy from the Inside Out



CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

My Glass Heart

By Karen Gillece, 336 pp, Hodder Headline Ireland, 90 yuan

One evening, while hosting a dinner party, Helen Glass slips unannounced from her home. She falls victim to a shocking act of violence, and cheats death by a heartbeat. Months later, although physically healed, she and her husband William still doubted the events that led to that momentous act. Into their lives steps Reuben,

a once-celebrated playwright hungry for his next great work. Instantly drawn to the couple, he deftly immerses himself in their individual stories of obsession and deceit.

Waiting for the End of the World

By Richard Ross, 144 pp, Princeton Architectural Press, 90 yuan

End of the World is photographer Richard Ross's journey into the quirky, somewhat paranoid and occasionally beautiful underground. Ross has documented bomb shelters of the US, as well as those in Vietnam, Russia, England, Turkey and Switzerland, where citizens are required by law to have a

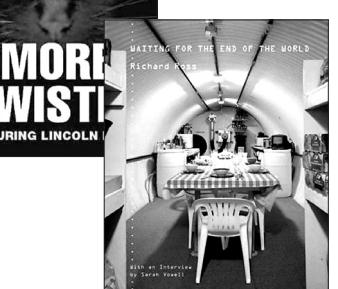
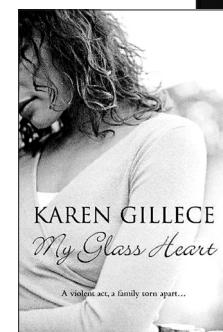
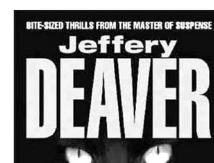
bomb shelter.

More Twisted

By Jeffery Deaver, 448 pp, Hodder Paperback, 90 yuan

A millionaire philanthropist is shot in his sleep. His terrified wife makes a narrow escape. A crime writer's violent fictions start to come chillingly true. Has he unwittingly inspired a murderer? A young woman is trapped in a tunnel deep underground. Two men battle to rescue her. Are they heroes, or driven by some darker motive? In the cunning, suspense-filled world of Jeffery Deaver, only one thing is certain: the next twist is only a page away.

(By He Jianwei)



Ready, aim, shoot!!



USB MSN Missile Launcher

You can have your USB MSN Missile Launcher set up within minutes and that's when the fun begins. For you see, as you chat, you and your buddies can control each other's launcher. And since each USB MSN Missile Launcher has an integrated webcam, which can be used as just a webcam if you haven't any buddies, you'll know exactly when you are aimed at your chum's head. Then fire away! The only downside is that your adversary can do the same to you. The upside is, you can always retaliate by turning your opponent's USB MSN Missile Launcher to face the door of his office and peg his boss when he comes in to lecture your friend about using IM for non-work-related matters.

Price: US\$59.99

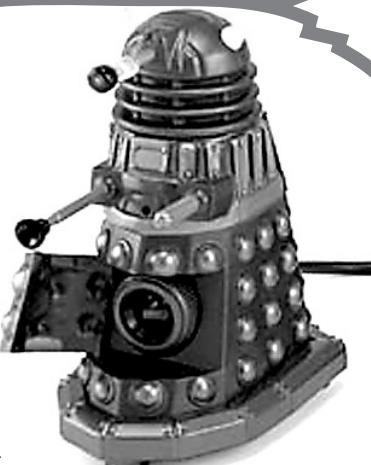


QWatch

Say hello to the new tripping remote-controlled webcams dubbed QWatch by IO-Data. Some of the models are even WiFi capable, if you're not a fan of running Cat-5 cable everywhere. I don't know why, but I suddenly have the desire to get a cappuccino.

The QWatch features the ability to monitor whatever you're looking at from just about anywhere. Feel like zooming in from your office PC? Go for it. Got to see if the kids are sneaking back home during school hours? Log in and bust them. On the road but you need to see if the cat destroyed your fake leather couch? You can even use your net-connected phone to check out whiskers and his tenacious claws of destruction. No word on pricing or availability.

Price: US\$400



Dalek Webcam

The Dalek Webcam might very well be one of the new babies captured in another place in time. It is plug-and-play and has LEDs to let you know when it is powered on. Just open up the lens door and sit it on your desk. The built-in microphone lets you attach sound to your video. And, if you want these Time Lord fans to have a better view of your face, you can always slip on the monitor clip and position the webcam a little higher. The Dalek Webcam is a great way to assert your *Doctor Who* obsession all the while giving you a great little webcam. Hopefully it won't grow up to be a full size Dalek. If it does, maybe you should run.

Price: US\$39.99

By Gan Tian / Wang Chuyang

Webcams are wonderful things. If you think a webcam is only for chatting, you are sadly mistaken. A new year means new webcams. *Beijing Today* announces, out with the old and in with the new! Take a look at these trendy new webcams!

Trendy webcam tips

- Most of the trendiest webcams introduced above can be found on the website thinkgeek.com. If you are a window-shopper, try taobao.com or ebay.com.
- Resolution is the most important factor in webcams. A low-resolution webcam is useless even if it has many other functions. Most webcams allow you watch the guy with whom you are conversing, handsome or horrible.
- Many laptops have webcams with a lot of good functions. HP has an inside webcam which can show different moods while you are talking to your friend. When your friend says something and you have no response, you can click a button, and a crow will fly across your screen. The new system of Macbook even allows you to appear an underwater scene or in a moving car with the background in constant motion. Amazing, isn't it?





Stick around for New Year's niangao

By Gan Tian

Niangao, or sticky cake, is a typical traditional delight. With Spring Festival only a few days away, now is the time to enjoy these sticky, glutinous treats!



Typical southern treat

During Spring Festival, or Chinese New Year, northerners in China enjoy dumplings, or *jiaozi*, but in the south, *niangao* is the order of the day.

Niangao, literally translated as Year Cake or Chinese New Year's cake, is made of glutinous rice. It is, traditionally, the main Chinese New Year cuisine; it is considered good luck to eat *niangao* during this time. In Chinese, "gao" is a homonym for high. *Niangao* is also called *nianniangao*, which is a homonym for "higher each year," symbolizing progress and promotion at work and in daily life and improvement in life year by year.

There are a variety of ways to make *niangao*, but the main ingredient is always glutinous rice pounded or ground into a paste, then mixed with other ingredients and molded into shape, then cooked again to settle the mixture.

There are also a few variants of *niangao*, such as Shanghai *Niangao* and Canton *Nian-gao*, but they are not commonly seen outside those areas.

Pleasing the heavens



The essence of Spring Festival is the celebration of the beginning of new life. New Year's Celebrations in China are swathed in the legends and traditions. The traditional Chinese New Year's Cake is a sticky cake offered to the Kitchen God. Spring Festival commences with the offering of a sacrifice to the Kitchen God, a deity sent from the heavens to each house to take charge of family affairs and report on what it has done in the past year.

The Kitchen God's favorite food is a steamed cake. Offering a Chinese New Year cake ensures that if the Kitchen God speaks ill of the family in heaven, the gluey cake will hold his mouth shut. This tradition seems to be an implicit pact between the Kitchen God and his devotees. According to various accounts, this cake was given either as a bribe, or simply a means of ensuring the Kitchen God's mouth was too full of cake to submit an unfavorable report.



Zao Jun, the Kitchen God

Many Chinese homes all over the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and Southeast Asia have a picture of the Kitchen God *Zao Jun* hanging above the stove. *Zao Jun* not only watches over the domestic affairs of a family, but is a moral force in the lives of all family members. It is *Zao Jun* who ascends to heaven every year during the Chinese New Year to present a report to the Jade Emperor on each family member's behavior.

Customarily, family members try to "bribe" *Zao Jun* by smearing his mouth with sugar or honey so that he may present a "sweetened" version of their deeds or misdeeds as the case may be. *Zao Jun*'s ascent to heaven is accomplished by burning his image: the smoke rising to the heavens symbolically representing his journey to the Jade Emperor. A new picture of him is then placed above the stove for the coming year.

In the above representation of *Zao Jun*, we see him and his wife flanked by two servants holding jars in which are stored the rewards or punishments for the deeds or misdeeds that have occurred during the year. Two other servants stand in the foreground: they serve both *Zao Jun* and the Jade Emperor and are intermediaries between the heavenly and earthly world.

The Taoist notion of yin and yang energies is symbolized by the rooster and the dog who stand guard on either side of the a jar filled with money and other riches the family hopes will come to them in the coming year.

Continued on page 17...

Sweet niangao recipe

Feel free to substitute other dried fruit or a combination of dried fruit and nuts for the jujubes.

Ingredients

- 3 1/4 cups glutinous rice flour (a 400-gram bag)
- 2/3 cup brown sugar or 2 slabs brown candy
- 7 ounces boiling water
- 1/2 cup dried jujubes softened in water, halved and pitted
- 1 tablespoon milk
- Water, as needed
- 1 tablespoon white sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Instructions

1. Prepare the wok for steaming.

2. In a bowl, mix the boiling water and the sugar, stirring to dissolve. If using brown candy, break it into several pieces to dissolve quickly. Cool. Soak the jujubes in hot water for at least 30 minutes to soften. Half them and remove the pits.

3. Place the glutinous rice flour in a large bowl. Make a well in the middle and stir in the sugar and water mixture. Add the milk and begin shaping the dough. Add 1 tablespoon of water to the dough at a time, until you have a smooth dough with a satiny texture. Incorporate 1/2 – 3/4 of the jujubes, nuts or other dried fruit as you are adding water and working with the dough.

4. Grease a 7-inch square cake pan with vegetable oil or a non-stick cooking spray. Place the dough in the cake pan and spread it out to the edges. Decorate with the remaining dates, lightly pushing them into the dough. Sprinkle the sesame seeds on top.

5. Steam the cake over medium-high to high heat for 45 minutes, or until the edges of the cake pull away from the pan. Remove the cake from the heat and cool.

6. Use a knife to loosen the edges, then remove the cake. Wrap in wax paper and refrigerate overnight.

7. To serve: Cut the cake into quarters, and then into thin slices 2 to 3 inches long and 1/4-inch wide. You can serve the cake as is, or reheat it in the microwave or resteam it for 4 to 5 minutes.

You can also pan-fry the cake, dipping the cake slices in an egg wash before frying. Use a small amount of oil so that the cake will not taste oily. Heat the oil on medium-high to high heat, then turn the heat down to medium and brown the cake slices briefly on both sides.



Jujube niangao recipe

Grace Young shared her recipe for jujube niangao in *Wisdom of the Chinese Kitchen*. "The egg-dipped, pan-fried slices have a mellow sweetness and are slightly chewy from glutinous rice flour," she wrote.

Her grandmother's servants would scrape slabs of brown candy to make the niangao. Brown candy is a kind of sugar sold in 500-gram packages, and sometimes in loose bins. The slabs are 5-inches long and 1 1/4-inches wide.

It is extremely labor-intensive, so some cooks dissolve the slabs in water: a less authentic, but speedier approach. You have to use glutinous rice flour for this recipe, not regular rice flour!

Ingredients:

- 3 dried jujubes
- 5 slabs brown candy, about 11 ounces
- 3 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 7 cups glutinous rice flour
- 1 tablespoon white sesame seeds
- 1 large egg
- vegetable oil, for pan-frying

Instructions

In a small bowl, soak the jujubes in 1/4 cup cold water for 30 minutes, or until softened. When softened, remove and discard the pits.

Cut each brown candy slab into 8 pieces. Place sugar in a heatproof bowl, pour 2 cups boiling water over the sugar, and set aside until dissolved and completely cooled.

Grease a heatproof 8-inch round, 3- to 4-inch-deep, straight-sided bowl, such as souffle dish, with 2 teaspoons vegetable oil.

Place rice flour in a large bowl. Make a well and stir in cold sugar water. Knead the dough in the bowl, adding an additional 1/3 cup cold water until dough is smooth, slightly moist and shiny, five to 10 minutes.

Place the dough in the prepared dish and pat it until it fills the dish evenly.

Halve the jujubes and place cut-side down in a ring around the outside of the dough, leaving a few to decorate the center.

Sprinkle the top with sesame seeds. Coat with the remaining 1 teaspoon of oil by using your fingers and pressing down lightly on the dates and sesame seeds.

Bring water to a boil over a high heat in a covered steamer large enough to fit the dish without touching the sides of the steamer. Carefully place the dish into the steamer, cover, and steam 35 to 40 minutes on high heat. Check the water level and replenish, if necessary, with boiling water. The cake is done when it begins to pull away from the sides of the pan. Carefully remove the dish from the steamer and pour off any excess liquid from the surface. Place on a rack to cool. Loosely cover and set at room temperature in a cool room until the next day, when it will be ready to eat.

Run a knife along the edge of the cake to loosen the sides. Place a cake rack over the bowl and invert to unmold. Flip the cake right-side up onto the cutting board. Wrap the cake in plastic and refrigerate until ready to use.

When ready to eat, cut the cake into quarters. Cut each quarter crosswise, not into wedges, but into two 2-inch-wide strips. Cut each strip crosswise into scant 1/4-inch-thick slices. This is the typical way of slicing a cake Chinese style. Beat an egg in a small bowl, until frothy. Dip the slices in egg.

Heat a 14-inch flat-bottomed wok or skillet, over medium heat until hot but not smoking. Add just enough vegetable oil to barely coat the wok, add the egg-dipped slices in batches and cook two to three minutes per side, until golden brown.



Baked niangao recipe

Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, contributing editor to the *Asian American Village*, shared a recipe for baked niangao.

This sweet, cake-like niangao has a slightly sticky texture or bite to it. This is a good recipe if you do not like standing over the stove worrying about the steamer boiling dry, if you do not want to pan fry lots of pieces or if you want to share with non-Asians who might be used to a more ... cake-like cake.

Ingredients

- 1 pound of glutinous rice flour
- 1 stick of butter or 3/4 cup of vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 to 1 3/4 cup sugar—depending on if you like it sweeter

1 tablespoon baking soda
One can of red azuki beans

Instructions

Mix everything but the beans with an electric mixer at medium speed for 2 minutes. Beat for 2 more minutes at high speed.

Sprinkle rice flour over a 9-by-13-inch oiled baking dish.

Spread half of the batter on the bottom of the baking pan. Spread the red azuki beans. You can mix some batter into the beans if they are too thick to spread.

Spread the other half of the batter over the red azuki beans, and bake in the oven at 175 centigrades for 40 to 50 minutes.

Test whether it is done by inserting a chopstick. If it comes out clean, the cake is done.

Dining



Plush Fondue

Get cozy here and gather around fondue pots of rich berry yoghurt or creamy chocolate ganache. Dunk exotic fruit, profiteroles into fluffy coffee meringues for a mouthwatering sensation.

If you spend 300 yuan, you can try your luck on the lucky tree. A surprise awaits!

Where: Fondue, the Westin Beijing, 9B Financial Street, Xicheng

When: 6 am – 1 am next day, February 1-29

Cost: 88-98 yuan (+15 percent) (per person)

Tel: 6629 7825



An Imperial Spring Festival feast at Shangri-la, Guangzhou

The Spring Festival Luxurious Set Menu which was created specially by Executive Chinese Chef Jacky Chan from the Summer Palace, sets the standard for opulence in China. Each dish in this eight-course menu is handcrafted from the most premium of ingredients by a team of dedicated chefs.

Savour the rare Yoshihama abalone or experience joy with the steamed superior bird's nest stuffed with wild bamboo pith topped with a gold leaf.

When: February 1-29

Cost: 198,000 yuan (per table of eight)

Tel: (86 20) 8917 6498 (please reserve 7 days in advance)



Valentine's Day at Jaan

This valentine's day, romance is spelled J-a-a-n.

A romantic candlelit setting – exquisite French cuisine and a selection of finest champagnes from renowned Veuve Clicquot or Dom Pérignon ensure a most memorable evening.

Courtesy of Fang Hua Pearl, you could win exclusive jewelry and pearls in the lucky draws.

A special Valentine's Day menu is tailored to suit your needs.

Where: East 33, Raffle Beijing Hotel, 33 Dongcheng Jie, Dongcheng

When: Noon – 2 pm, 6:30 pm – 10 pm, February 14

Cost: 988-1,999 yuan (+15 percent)

Tel: 6526 3388 ext. 4186 (for reservation)



Summit Club

Surprise and delight your loved one with a candle-lit dinner at the Summit Club. It is perfect way to show someone how much you care.

Where: Summit Club, Kunlun Hotel, 2 Xiuyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 6 pm – 11 pm

Cost: 2,888 yuan (+ 15 percent)

Tel: 65903388 ext. 5406

Nightlife



Valentine party – for love

The most fashionable Valentine's party is happening at Star Live. In Bed with Space, the famous party organizing group, has invited world-renowned deejays including David, Leslie and Aleksey to meet you at Star Live.

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng

When: 9 pm, February 14

Admission: 80-250 yuan

Blues Legend Charlie Musselwhite and the Alex Wilson Band

Black Cat Bone is set to heat up the stage for none other than blues harmonica legend Charlie Musselwhite. If you are even a remote fan of the blues, this is one event you should not miss. Musselwhite will be accompanied by the pride of the Milwaukee/Chicago blues scene, Alex Wilson and his trio.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Coutyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3

Zhang Zizhong Lu, Dongcheng



When: 9 pm, February 1

Admission: 40 yuan (Advance), 50 yuan (Door)

Tel: 6404 2711

Outdoors

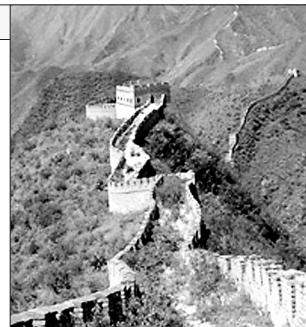
Great Wall Spur Hike

On this hike you will visit a section of the Great Wall that was completed around 1580, during the reign of Ming Dynasty Emperor Wan Li.

The hike begins with a short walk up a valley road, followed by a climb up a hillside path to reach the Great Wall. This steep climb will take about forty minutes, and is the most difficult part of the hike.

After reaching the top you will follow the Great Wall as it winds along and up a ridge. Because the wall was designed as a defensive fortification you get excellent views, with mountains, villages, and other stretches of the great structure all in sight as you walk. Along the way you pass through towers, and can stop for a snack break at the highest point.

The journey finishes up at a



big tower – from there you follow a trail down into another valley, finally arriving at a small country hotel with a distinctive red roof.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, February 3

Cost: 300 yuan

Tel: 13910025516

(reservations at Beijing Hikers are essential)

Yuanyang's Hani Rice Terrace & Jianshui in Yunnan

Yuanyang is renowned for its rice terraces, sculpted by the bare hands of the Hani people one thousand years ago, transforming a barren valley into a humid Eden; perfect for rice crops. The 1,000-meter mountain slopes of terraces are still in use today, claiming to be the world's most spectacular and extensive terraces.

An optional gateway to Yuanyang, Jianshui is a little town with interesting historical architecture and relics. Jianshui was once an important center of Yunnan and a required stop on the road from Kunming to Vietnam, the Dai kingdom of Xish-

uangbanna and the edge of the Chinese empire. Jianshui grew on the profits from its lucrative position as a center of trade. The town's extensive architectural legacy bears witness to this former glory and charms those few visitors who come. Nowadays the north-south road from the capital bypasses Jianshui far to the west, and few people make the journey.

When: Fly to Kunming on February 6 and fly back to Beijing on February 9

Cost: 6,700 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration at CCC is important) (By Li Jing)



If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

The brightest people make the biggest blunders

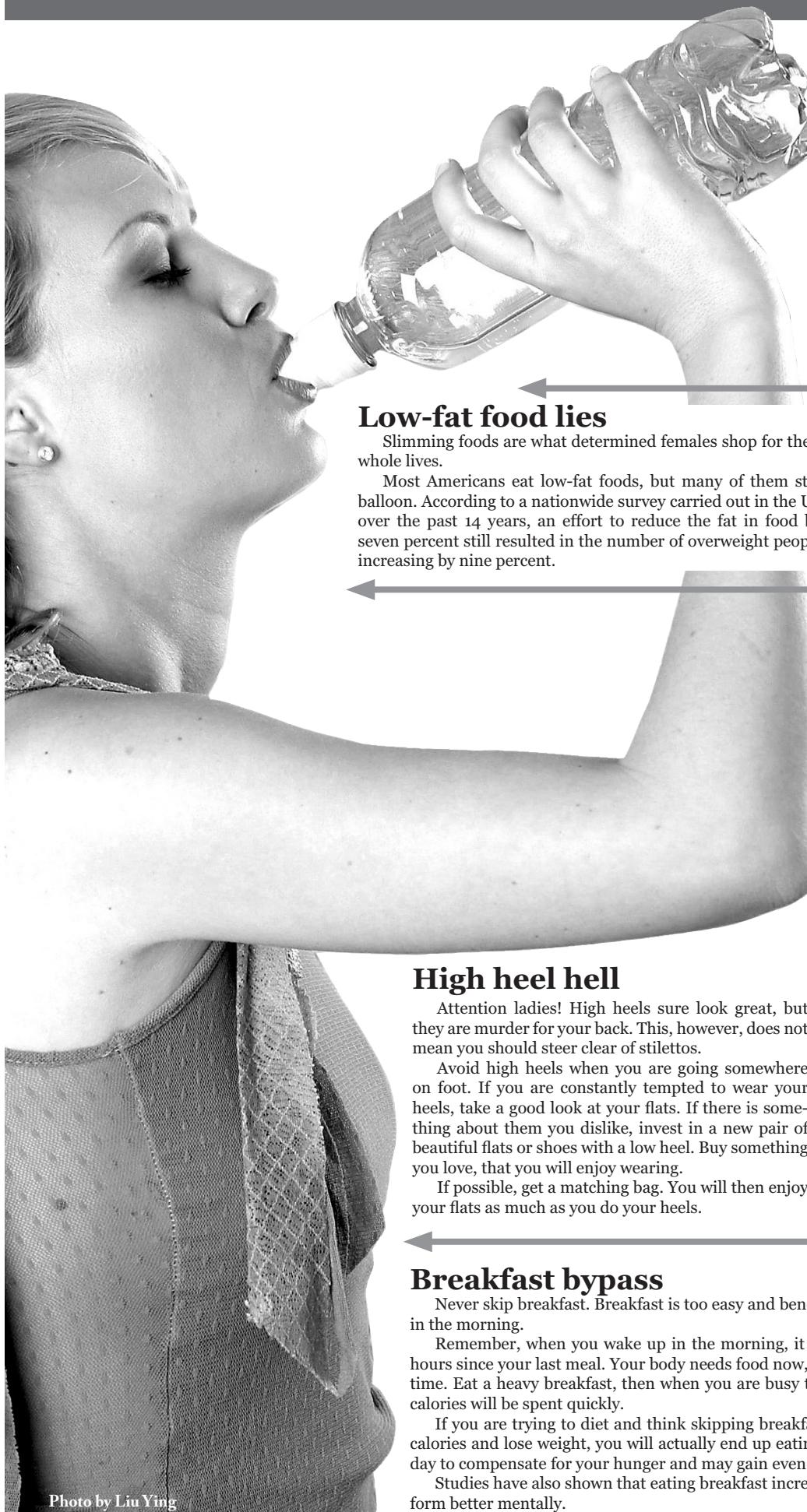
Are you ignoring health blunders? You may think you know just about everything there is to know about staying healthy, but a recent study by the research staff from the Medicine School of Indiana University says even the smartest women make simple, yet

dangerous, health mistakes.

The researchers analyzed some everyday health mistakes that are generally taken for granted by doctors, fitness experts and the public. Though many of these daily mistakes seem rather minute, there is sub-

stantial evidence to prove that these little blunders cause damage to bodies in the long run.

Here are seven stupid mistakes even the smartest adults are making. So, if there is one you are ignoring, it is time to wise up.



Low-fat food lies

Slimming foods are what determined females shop for their whole lives.

Most Americans eat low-fat foods, but many of them still balloon. According to a nationwide survey carried out in the US over the past 14 years, an effort to reduce the fat in food by seven percent still resulted in the number of overweight people increasing by nine percent.

The big gulp

Drink at least eight glasses of water every day, Gillian McKeith, the Scottish nutritionist and television presenter repeatedly suggests, "This will excrete toxins from your body."

In fact, this health suggestion was proposed as early as 1945 and McKeith was somewhat careless in suggesting eight glasses of water be the normal person's daily need. The majority of this water intake can also be obtained through daily diet.

In other words, if you enjoy a normal daily diet, you just have to drink a little extra water when you feel thirsty, not gulp down eight glasses a day.

Studies from the research crew showed that beverages, milk, coffee and tea can provide enough water for the human body's need. In fact, excessive water intake could be harmful and may even lead to fatal results.

Even if you replace high-fat food with low-fat food, your weight may still increase. The reason is simple: you are eating low-fat food, but you have ingested far more calories.

If you are now on a quest to re-shape your body, you should calculate the total calories you are taking in. For a female, the daily caloric requirements are between 1,600-2,000 calories. Using your weight (in pounds) multiplied by 12 is your daily caloric requirement.

Loosen your legs

Do you cross your legs at your knees when sitting?

Although we may believe that this is the lady-like elegant way to sit, this posture cuts down circulation to your legs. If you do not want varicose veins to mar the beauty of your legs and compromise your health, uncross your legs.

The best way to sit is to simply place both legs together with your feet flat on the floor, balancing your weight equally.

If you feel like changing position, instead of crossing your legs, simply move both legs together to one side. As an alternative, you could also consider crossing your legs loosely at the ankles. This is an elegant way to sit, and is far better for your legs and your health than sitting with your legs crossed at your knees.

Trade in your toothbrush

How often do you change your toothbrush? Most of us wait until most of the bristles have either fallen off, or are in such bad shape we would be embarrassed to pull it out in public.

However, since not many of us need to expose our toothbrush in public, we carry on with our frayed one until we are down to the handle. Replace your toothbrush often.

Damaged bristles can harm the enamel, and do not massage your gums well. If you find brushing your teeth a pain like I do, but know you have to, you might as well be doing it right.

Imagine enduring the hassle of brushing your teeth twice a day only to discover that you are damaging your enamel every time you do the task. Also, use a brush with soft bristles unless your dentist advises otherwise.

High heel hell

Attention ladies! High heels sure look great, but they are murder for your back. This, however, does not mean you should steer clear of stilettos.

Avoid high heels when you are going somewhere on foot. If you are constantly tempted to wear your heels, take a good look at your flats. If there is something about them you dislike, invest in a new pair of beautiful flats or shoes with a low heel. Buy something you love, that you will enjoy wearing.

If possible, get a matching bag. You will then enjoy your flats as much as you do your heels.

Breakfast bypass

Never skip breakfast. Breakfast is too easy and beneficial a meal to pass up in the morning.

Remember, when you wake up in the morning, it has been around 10-12 hours since your last meal. Your body needs food now, more than at any other time. Eat a heavy breakfast, then when you are busy throughout the day, the calories will be spent quickly.

If you are trying to diet and think skipping breakfast is a good way to cut calories and lose weight, you will actually end up eating more throughout the day to compensate for your hunger and may gain even more weight.

Studies have also shown that eating breakfast increases your ability to perform better mentally.

Pillow talk

No matter how comfortable sleeping with ten cushions is, have pity on your neck and resist. Sleep with one pillow, and make sure it is not too thick.

If your pillow gets lumpy, discard it and get a new one. Use a thin pillow if you sleep on your stomach and something a little thicker if you sleep on your back, to give your neck adequate support.

(By Huang Daohen)

Dunhuang, a cultural oasis in the desert



Visitors return by camel after visiting Dunhuang

Photo by Song Mingkun

The largest Dunhuang art exhibit is currently on display at the National Art Museum. Ten duplicated Dunhuang caves are there for the first time. The National Art Museum has frescoes painted on its outer walls to complement the exhibit within.

For most visitors who lack the time and opportunity to see Dunhuang, the exhibit is a nice chance to see its Buddhas and frescoes. But what was left behind in those Gansu Province caves that the exhibit couldn't capture?



Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes
Photo by Xiang Xiaoyang

Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes

The Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes are located in the vale of the Daquan River, southeast of Dunhuang city. Its 492 caves honeycomb all the walls of the vale.

The grottoes were first built in 366 AD. By Tang Dynasty (618-907), the number of caves reached one thousand.

Due to natural and man-made damage, only 492 caves remain today: these house about 45,000-square-meters of frescoes and 2,400 colored statues. The caves were halls for monks to perform religious ceremonies.

Colored statues are the bulk of Dunhuang art, and have an important position in each cave. Most statues are combinations of a Buddha and two Bodhisattvas. Starting in Sui (581-618) and Tang Dynasty, colored statue

groups began to appear. The statues of the late Tang were more real and emotional.

Another feature of the Mogao Grottoes is the large numbers of colorful frescoes. Buddhas, mountains and rivers, animals, fairy tales and ornaments were all subjects. They reflect the life of people in ancient times, as well as their technology, music, dance, and clothing.

Open: 8:30 am to 6 pm from May to October; 9 am to 5:30 pm from November to April

Admission: 160 yuan per person from May to October for Chinese; 180 yuan per person for foreign visitors including foreign language tour guide; 80 per person from November to April for Chinese; 100 yuan per person for foreign visitors.

“

Traveler's experience

“At any given time, around 50 caves are open to the general public, and access is only possible as part of a guided tour. Although the guide will have a flashlight, it is advisable to bring your own, but be prudent with its use – the frescoes and pigments are damaged by light.

If you are referring to one of the specialist guide books, note that the cave numbering system has changed, which makes it all a little confusing. The highlights for many fast-paced fleet-footed tour groups are the northern and southern Big Buddha caves, which, artistically are among the least interesting, so if you let your guide know that you are willing to skip these, you will have a lot more time to see some of the more interesting caves.

Forget about seeing the caves depicting tantric sex: these are off-limits to all but the most serious of researchers. Cameras are not allowed in the caves; they have to be deposited in a locker-room near the ticket office.”

– mke1963 wrote on virtualtourist.com



Buddhas in Dunhuang
Photos by Cao Zhigang

Jiayu Pass (Jiayuguan)

Jiayu Pass is a five-hour trip from Dunhuang. It was built in 1372, nine years earlier than Shanhai Pass (Shanhaiguan), called the First Pass Under Heaven. The location of Jiayu Pass is vital both in natural environment and geographical condition.

Open: 8:30 am to 6 pm from November to April; 8:30 am to 8 pm from March to October

Admission: 61 yuan per person

“

Traveler's experience

“Jiayu Pass is the western beginning of the Great Wall. If I were to rate my travel highlights, Jiayu Pass would be second place. When I walked there, I thought of many poems I studied to describe the mood of the soldiers sent to such a remote place. From a modern viewpoint, the military town is minuscule, and many soldiers spent their entire lives there. There was an opera stand to entertain the soldiers with naked women painted on the ceiling. The pass also has a Great Wall museum, which is worth a visit.”

– yirutang wrote on virtualtourist.com

Mingsha Hill

Mingsha Hill lies south of Dunhuang city. The hill body is an accumulation of quicksand. It looks golden, soft and silent. The east end of the hill is at Mogao Grottoes and runs 40 kilometers.

Visitors like to climb Mingsha Hill, but to reach the top is no easy feat. The soft sand carries you half a step back for every one step forward. You have to climb on your four limbs, but once at the top, you can see sandy waves like those in a desert. People slide down the sand back to the base after viewing the peak.

Admission: 80 yuan per person from April to June; 120 yuan per person from July to November

“

Traveler's experience

“Mingsha Hill means “Singing sand” hill in Chinese. Sometimes, in the evening, the sandy hill will make some noise as people walk on it. It is because of the sharp temperature differences in the sand. I don't fully understand why – I wasn't lucky enough to hear it.

The mountain is a pure sand desert. We took a camel ride all the way up the sand mountain. There is also a game of sand skiing on the mountain. You have

to be careful not to drop your camera, because if you do, it will be permanently damaged. The sand can flood into the camera like water. The famous Crescent Moon Lake is at the same place. It is hard to imagine a lake being there for hundreds and thousands of years in the middle of a deadly pure desert.

The lake is also slowly sinking into the ground, and it is becoming smaller and smaller.”

– yirutang wrote on virtualtourist.com

(By Jackie Zhang)



The Mogao Grottoes are illuminated at night for shooting a movie.
Photo by Sun Zhijun

The pool of life

2008 Official Opening Weekend

January 11 - 13

St George's Plateau & Liverpool Echo Arena

Opening weekend started January 11 with a free open-air spectacle on St George's Hall Plateau. The Liverpool Echo Arena, an £146 million construction, opened for the first time. Ringo Starr, former Beatle, Dave Stewart of The Eurythmics and a host of stars will come together for the performance of *Liverpool: The Musical*.

St George's Hall is a neoclassical auditorium in the Liverpool city center. As part of the William Brown Street conservation area, the hall is considered to house the world's first air-conditioning system. In front of the Hall is St George's Plateau, a cobbled area with several statues of notable Victorian figures and a memorial that was dedicated to those killed in wars.

Located in the stunning site of the King's Dock on the River Mersey, Echo Arena Liverpool is a versatile and modern arena built to hold 10,000 people, just the right size for concerts, comedy, family entertainment and sport.

Getting there: St Georges Hall, William Brown Street, Liverpool, Merseyside L1 1JJ

Echo Arena Liverpool, King's Dock, Liverpool, L3 4AD

British Dance Edition

January 30 - February 2

Liverpool's Empire Theatre

Dance promoters from all over the world will travel to the city in search of new trends and ideas in British dance. Thirty-six of the UK's most exciting dance companies will perform across Liverpool's major arts venues, with new and emerging work featured alongside more established and well-known companies. British Dance Edition offers dance fans a chance to see the country's most exciting contemporary dance.

Liverpool's Empire Theatre, the largest two-tier theater in the country, was completely refurbished – an £11 million project – and organizers expect its improvements, along with others throughout the city, will play a big role in Liverpool's special Year of Culture in 2008.

Getting there: Liverpool's Empire Theatre, Lime Street, Liverpool, L1 1JE

Art in the Age of Steam

April 18 - August 10

Walker Art Gallery

This is the most wide-ranging exhibition yet held to look at how artists responded to the extraordinary impact that steam trains had on landscape and society. About 100 paintings, photographs, prints and drawings transported from some of the world's greatest art collections come together in a dazzling display covering the years from 1830 to 1960. Featuring artists such as Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro and Edward Hopper, the exhibition will explore the fear and excitement of early train travel as it captures the artist's response to the advent of the steam locomotion.

Art in the Age of Steam will be exhibited in the national gallery of the North Walker Art Gallery. For 130 years it has housed Liverpool's most outstanding art collection. Many of the gallery's most important works have been on display in the city for nearly 200 years. The history of the gallery and its collection reflect the people of Liverpool's commitment to and appreciation of the arts. It also illustrates the generosity of the city's leaders in ensuring public access to such works.

Getting there: Walker Art Gallery, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EL

Liverpool, called "the pool of life" by Swiss analytical psychologist Carl Gustav Jung, is being showered with attention this year as the European capital of culture.

Throughout the year, it will celebrate with hundreds of music, art, sports, architecture and heritage events. The attention has provided a much-needed boost to the city's rejuvenation efforts, for which many people have waited for years.

Le Corbusier

October 2 - January 17

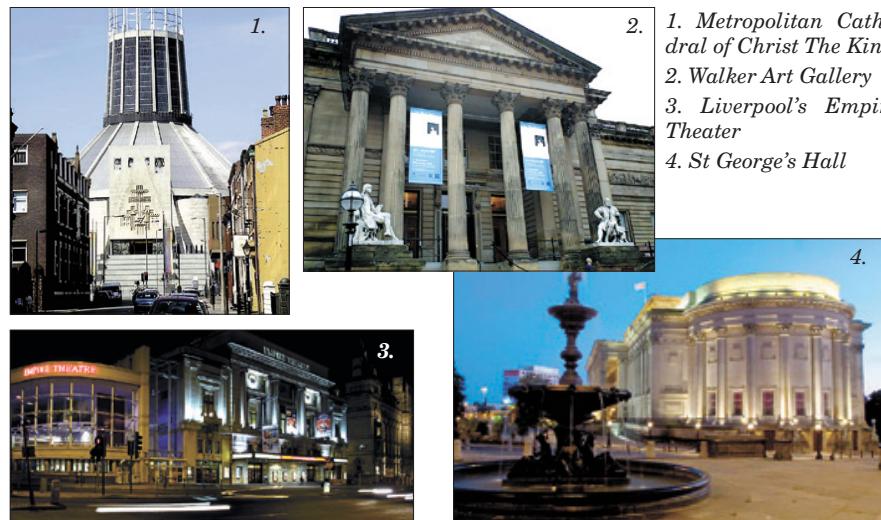
The Crypt, Metropolitan Cathedral

The life and work of 20th-century architect Le Corbusier is part of the major, new international exhibition premiering in Liverpool this year. Le Corbusier – The Art of Architecture will be exhibited in one of the country's most dramatic spaces: the crypt of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. The exhibition will then travel to the Barbican, London, to mark the 175th anniversary of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King is a Roman Catholic cathedral

in Liverpool. It is the seat of the Archbishop of Liverpool, the mother church of Liverpool's Catholics, and the metropolitan church of the ecclesiastical Northern Province. It stands on the site of the Liverpool Workhouse, on Hope Street. Facing it at the opposite end of Hope Street is the Cathedral Church of Christ, the city's Anglican cathedral. Ironically, Lutyens was an Anglican, while the architect of the Anglican cathedral, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, was a Catholic.

Getting there: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Cathedral House, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5TQ,



Other Highlights

Dreamthinkspeak – One Step Forward, One Step Back

One Step Forward, One Step Back will weave a magical journey for intimately-sized groups through areas of the Liverpool cathedral previously unseen by the public. Throughout, the company's visual language of film, music, installation, models and live performance will interlink and echo to create a vivid and rich voyage through this remarkable building.

When: April 7 - May 10
Where: Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, 6 Cathedral Close, L1 7AZ
Tel: +44 (0)151 709 6271

Liverpool Streets Ahead Weekend
Streets Ahead is a weekend of fantastic street theater, music, dance, puppets, booth shows and spectacles, featuring artists from all over the world, as well as Great Britain and Liverpool itself. It

is presented by MIA on behalf of the Liverpool Culture Company.

When: May 24 - 26
Where: St Georges Hall and City Centre, William Brown Street, L1 1JJ
Tel: +44 (0)151 225 6909

Go Superlambananas

Go Superlambananas celebrates Liverpool's communities by turning its streets, parks, neighborhoods and open spaces into an open-air, free to view, public art event. As many as a hundred 180-centimeter-tall Superlambananas, one of Liverpool's most iconic pieces of public art, will be painted, decorated and adorned by local and regional artists, community groups and celebrities.

When: June - August
Where: Across Liverpool, 08 Place, L1 6DX
Tel: +44 (0)151 233 2008

(By Zhang Dongya)



A graffiti of The Beatles for the opening weekend in Liverpool.
Photo by Jim Dyson

**Synopsis**

Juno, a high school girl who is challenged with an unplanned pregnancy after sex with her classmate Bleeker, finally decides to have the baby and put it up for adoption. Luckily, with help from her best friend Leah, she is able to find an affluent suburban couple, Mark and Vanessa, who have been longing to be parents. Juno also has the total support of her parents, Mac and Bren, but still finds it tough to make the decision on her own.

Juno (2007)

Scene 1: Juno tells Bleeker she is pregnant

(Juno tells Bleeker she is pregnant when he comes out of his house ready for his morning jog and he is dumbstricken.)

Juno: Oh, you know, I was thinking I'd just nip it in the bud⁽¹⁾ before it gets worse. Because they were talking about it

in health class, how pregnancy can often lead to an infant.

Bleeker: Typically, yeah, yeah. That's what happens when our moms and teachers get pregnant.

Juno: So, you're cool with that then?

Bleeker: Yeah, yeah, wizard. You



know, do whatever you think you should do, you know?

Juno: Well, I'm sorry I had sex with you; I know it wasn't your idea.

Bleeker: Whose idea was it?

Juno: I'll see you at school, alright?

Bleeker: Whose idea was it?

Scene 2: Juno tells her parents

(Juno paces in the sitting-room restless before her father, Mac and her stepmother, Bren, not knowing how to tell them she is pregnant. Her friend Leah sits beside her.)

Juno: I'm not really sure how I'm gonna spit this out⁽²⁾.

Bren: Hon, did you get expelled⁽³⁾?

Juno: No. The school would most likely contact you in the event of my expulsion.

Juno: Well, I was just asking. It seemed plausible.

Mac: Do you need a large amount of money? Legal counsel?

Juno: No, I'm not asking for anything. Except for maybe mercy. Like, it would be

friggin'⁽⁴⁾ sweet if no one hit me.

Mac: What have you done, June bug? Did you hit someone with the Previa?

Juno: No.

Leah: Dude, I think it's best to just tell them.

Juno: I'm pregnant.



Scene 3: Juno fights with her stepmother

(Juno goes to the Loring's, hanging out with Mark, and arrives home late. Her stepmother, Bren, scolds her and Juno rebels by starting a fight.)

Bren: Juno, you can't just drop in on⁽⁵⁾ them like that.

Juno: No, it was not a big deal. He was totally cool with it.

Bren: You don't understand. Mark is a married man, there are boundaries.

Juno: Oh, come on. Listen, Bren-duhhh. You're acting like you're the one who has to go through this and get huge and shove a baby out of your vag for

someone else. What does it even matter if he's married? I can have friends that are married.

Bren: It doesn't work that way, kiddo. You don't know squat⁽⁶⁾ about the dynamics of marriage.

Juno: You don't know anything about me!

Bren: I know enough.

Juno: We don't even have a dog!

Bren: Yeah, because you're allergic to their saliva. I have sacrificed a lot for you, Juno. But in a couple years when you move out I'm going to get Weimaransers.

Juno: Wow, dream big⁽⁷⁾!

Bren: Oh, go fly a kite⁽⁸⁾.

Scene 4: Juno argues with Bleeker

(Juno knew from her friend Leah that Bleeker was going to a prom with another girl, whom Bleeker previously said he didn't like. They have a fight at school.)

Bleeker: You're mad. Why are you mad?

Juno: I'm not mad. I'm in a great mood. Despite the fact that I'm in a fat suit I can't take off, despite the fact that pretty much everyone is making fun of me behind my back, despite the fact that your girlfriend gave me the stink eye in art class yesterday.

Bleeker: Katrina's not my girlfriend! And I doubt that she gave you the stink eye.

Juno: That's just the way her face looks.

Bleeker: Like I'd marry you! You'd be the meanest wife ever.

Juno: Just take Soupy Sales to the

prom, I can think of so many cooler things to do that night. I might pumice my feet or go to Bren's Unitarian Church, maybe get hit by a truck full of hot garbage juice. All those things would be exponentially cooler than going to the prom with you.

Bleeker: You're being really immature. You have no reason to be mad at me. You broke my heart. I should be royally ticked off at⁽⁹⁾ you. I should be really cheeched off⁽¹⁰⁾. I shouldn't want to talk to you anymore.

Juno: Why? Because I got bored and had sex with you, and then I didn't wanna, like, marry you?

Bleeker: Like I'd marry you! You'd be the meanest wife ever.

(By Cai Jindong)

Vocabulary

1. nip it in the bud: to stop something quickly before it continues to progress

2. spit it out: to say openly without delay or thought

3. expelled: kicked out of school

4. frigging: extremely

5. drop in on: to visit someone unannounced

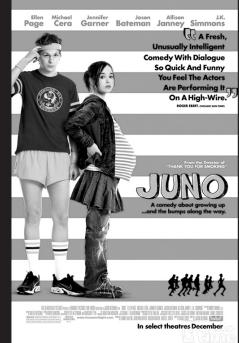
6. don't know squat: to know nothing

7. Dream big: fantasize on a large scale

8. Go fly a kite: telling someone to go away

9. ticked off: to be angry

10. cheesed off: to be disappointed



Movie of the Week

Juno, directed by Jason Reitman with Ellen Page (Juno MacGuff) and Michael Cera (Paulie Bleeker), landed four Oscar nominations Tuesday, including best picture which critics say the movie has a solid chance of winning on February 24.

Ever since its premiere at the Toronto Film Festival earned it a prolonged standing ovation, the movie about a 16-year-old girl who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant has gained waves of applause.

It remains in the top 10 at the box office and shows no signs of leaving anytime soon.

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

I'm such a dumbbell!

By Gan Tian

It is universally acknowledged that girls love muscular guys, so I joined the fitness club downstairs one month ago.

Fantasizing I could be one of those much-admired muscle-bound guys who take off their T-shirts to display their impressive chests in the night clubs, I really worked out hard, three times a week, one hour lifting weights and one hour swimming. However, I still was not grasping some basic principles of the exercise.

One afternoon, when I was still "playing" with the dumbbells, a muscular man wearing the club's uniform, said to me, "You are doing it all wrong. You should raise the weights up to your nose!" He demonstrated and suggested I should find a personal trainer. Considering his perfect muscles and warm heart, I paid him a 4,000 yuan, and started professional gym courses under his guidance.

The very next day I noticed my friend James while working my weights. He came up to me, saying, "Hey, are you still doing this alone?"

"No, I have a trainer. There, see? He is preparing dumbbells for me," I pointed to my trainer.

"Oh, I've seen him before! He is really good!" James said. At that moment, my trainer approached us with two dumbbells in his hands.

I introduced him to my friend who said jokingly, "Wow, your trainer is really a hunk!"

I felt a little embarrassed, as I thought the word "hunk" was a little negative. I recalled it meant, "a large piece of a solid substance," for example, a hunk of meat or a hunk of bread. I thought that when a person is thought of as a large piece of something, it meant he or she was a little dumb.

However, James and my trainer didn't feel uncomfortable as they carried on their conversation in a pleasant manner. I was the only one feeling a little strange.

"James, when you said my trainer was a 'hunk', do you mean he looked stupid? That's not good! He looks great with those bulging muscles," I whispered to James when my trainer went for some water.

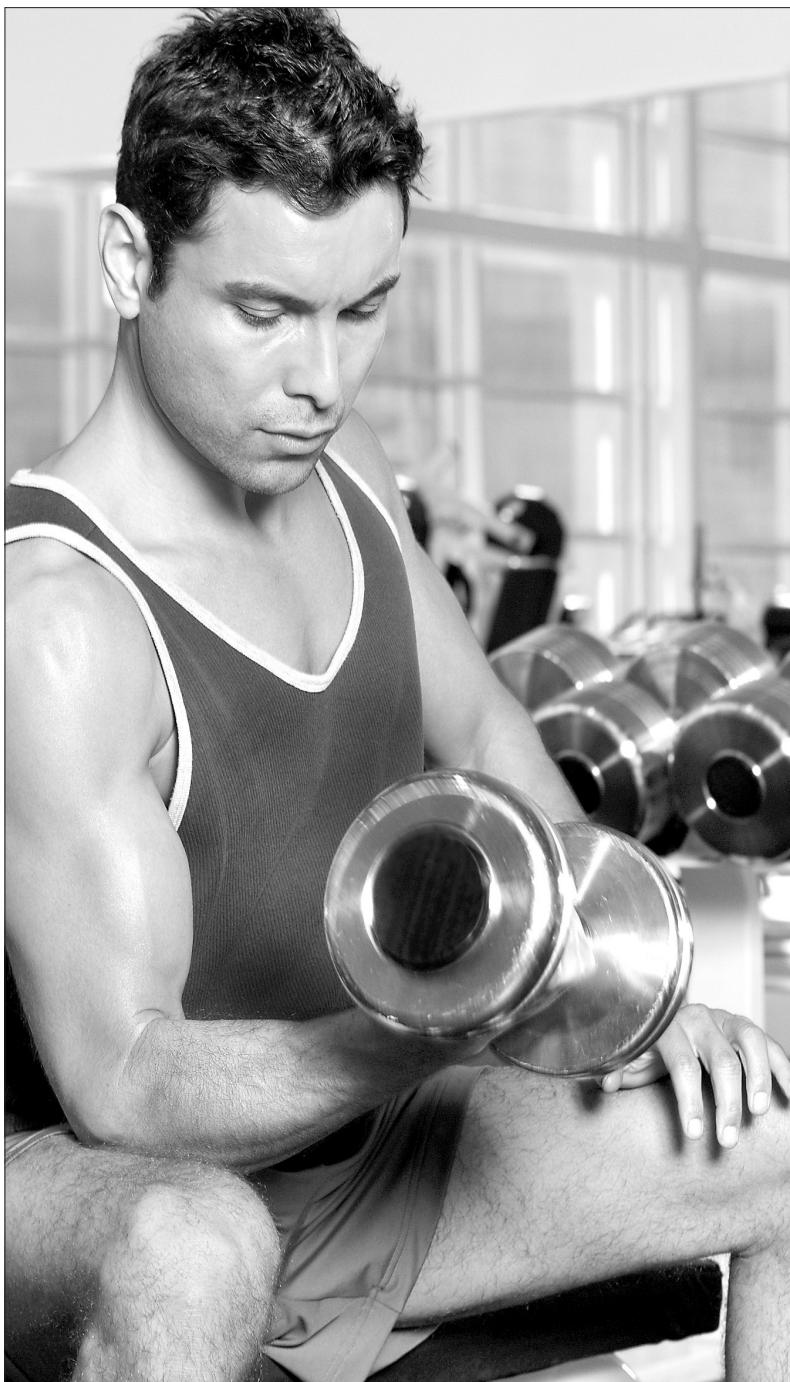
My friend paused momentarily and then burst into laughter saying, "No way! I would never say your trainer looked stupid! You're misunderstanding the word, 'hunk'! When used informally, it means a strong and sexually attractive man! I was praising him!"

I was dumbfounded! As my trainer approached, James winked at me saying, "Hope you become a hunk soon!"

I admitted it was a good word and felt a little ashamed at my poor English. When I got home, I looked up "hunk" in the dictionary and what James had said was true! I also discovered the adjective, "hunky" which means a man is physically strong and sexually attractive, never stupid!

Oh, how I long to be a hunk and not a dumbbell!

Photo by Liu Ying



This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Resting way up the wall

By Derrick Sobodash

Sleepwalkers are prone to do many things. There are case studies describing people doing everything from going outside to retrieve a newspaper that isn't there to cooking eggs on the stove.

While in its extreme forms, sleepwalking can be a dangerous disorder, few somnambulists manage to sleep walk to the Great Wall, let alone far enough up it to notice these signs.

Compared to many entries in the Chinglish log, "Sleep Slope Is In Frontage! Please walk slowly!" is hardly terrifying. In fact, the second half is almost perfect.

However, what happened to the first part? For some reason, the writer decided to begin each word with a capital letter. While it may be standard practice in titles of a work, it is fairly odd for a public notice. Only the first word should be capitalized unless the entire sign is being written in capitals.

The translation doesn't quite work either. The thing in front of the sign is not a slope, but a staircase. Since a staircase is made of steps, it would be better to describe the steps as being steep. "Is In Frontage" is also problematic. No one uses the word "frontage" except for landscapers. On a public notice like this, it is much more common to just say "ahead."

While "Please walk slowly" is correct and understandable, I think "Climb with care" would sound better on this sign. A better overall translation would be, "Steep steps ahead! Climb with care." The alliteration is a nice bonus.

Local Professor: Zhu Shida

1. Malaysia Week will launch

In this sentence, the verb to launch is a transitive verb and cannot launch anything. So, you have to either say, "Malaysia Week will be launched" or, "We will launch Malaysia Week." It can be used intransitively only in a case such as, "He used the money to launch his new business."

2. A width less than six meters

A preposition is needed here to correct this sentence. We are talking about the ever-popular preposition, "of." Position it properly and the sentence reads, "A width of less than six meters," or, you could say, "The room is less than six meters in width." Now your grammar is measuring up.

3. He was specialized in Mexican food.

The verb "specialize" is an intransitive verb when it means "to pursue some special branch of study, research, or work, for example, to specialize in American history. So, in this case, it should be, "He specialized in Mexican food." However, it can be used transitively when it means "to make special or specific". In this case, you may also say, "He became specialized in Mexican food."

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. Malaysia Week will launch

Since the verb, "to launch" is a transitive verb, it can't actually launch something as Malaysia Week is trying to do in the above sample sentence. It would take a huge rubber band to do so! The sentence should read, "Malaysia Week will be launched." or, "We will launch Malaysia Week."

2. A width less than six meters.

The above sentence is "prepositionally-challenged," as we grammar gurus like to say. It needs the word, "of" to be complete and read, "A width of less than six meters." If this sentence could talk to us now, it would say, with great emotion, "You complete me!"

3. He was specialized in Mexican food.

In this sentence we might get the impression that the gentleman, in question, is actually part of the food. An ugly thought indeed! When meaning to pursue some special avenue of study, the verb "specialize" is in the intransitive form. The example sentence is a simple fix. Just drop the verb "was" and you will be specializing in very good grammar. Speedy Gonzales would be proud. The sentence now reads, "He specialized in Mexican food."

Friday, February 1



Exhibition

Yi Hui

Solo Exhibition

Where: Fafa Gallery, 4 Yuyang Lu, Houshayu, Shunyi

When: 10:30 am – 8 pm, until February 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 8430 2587

Huang Jun Digital Images Exhibition

Where: Lobby Gallery, JW Marriott Beijing, China Central Place, 83 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang

When: All day, until March 31

Admission: free

Tel: 8911 5736

The Exhibition features Wang Meng and Feng Yu.



Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition



The Exhibition features Wang Meng and Feng Yu.

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huaweili 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am – 6 pm, until February 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Movie

La Dama Boba

In Manuel Iborra's period-dress comedy, La Dama Boba (Lady Nitwit, 2006), two 17th century sisters actively flee the patriarchal chauvinism and insensitivity that plague their era.

Where: Beijing Institut Cervantes, A1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5879 9666

Upcoming

Nutcracker

Who: Russian Ballet Troupe
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm, February 3
Admission: 50-1,000 yuan



6 Saturday, February 2

Exhibition

The Other Side of Totality – Wang Luyan Solo Exhibition



In *The Other Side of Totality* Wang Luyan constructs an enlarged microscopic world: on the four walls of the exhibition space, he uses methods of mechanized composition and style to portray repetitive patterns made by the wheels of a tank.

Where: JoyArt, Zone D, 4 Jiuxian Qiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until March 26
Admission: Free
Tel: 8167 9255

New Works – Fortunee Noel Solo Exhibition



Fortunee Noel introduces the human figure of a worker in her urban landscapes on Plexiglass.

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio, Feijiacun

Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Lai-guangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until March 23
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747

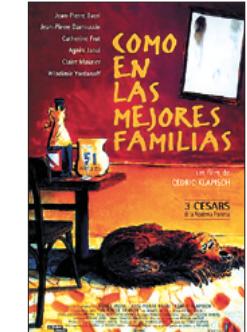
Jiang Pengyi Solo Exhibition

Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until February 22
Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9263

Movie

Un Air De Famille



Un Air De Famille, Named one of the "ten best films of the year" by *Time Out New York*, is a sharp and biting comic drama about a dysfunctional family that gets together for dinner once a week.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 5 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Where: Michael Schultz Gallery Beijing, 319 East End Art, Caochangdi, Chaoyang

7 Sunday, February 3

Exhibition

New Vista



Where: White Space Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun noon – 6 pm, until March 16
Admission: Free
Tel: 8456 2054

Li Yuduan Solo Exhibition



Where: Michael Schultz Gallery Beijing, 319 East End Art, Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until February 26
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 5093

Returning – Abiao Solo Exhibition

His work contains something quite historical, but you can feel strongly the modern rhythm,

filled with elements admired and accepted by both the east and west.

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Daily 8 am – midnight, until February 29
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6959 8343

Movie

Filles Uniques

Tina, a young shoplifter, believes that she owes her freedom to a court judge named Carole, so to thank her, she brings a gift to the judge's home. Realizing that Tina is actually looking for a place to spend the night, the judge lets her stay.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Stage in March

Concert

Incubus Beijing Concert 2008

Who: Incubus
Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng
When: 8 pm, March 12
Admission: 400-600 yuan

Rene Liu (Liu Ruoying) Beijing Live 2008 Concert

Who: Rene Liu (Liu Ruoying)
Where: Capital Gymnasium, 54 Zhongguancun Nan Dajie, Haidian
When: 7:30 pm, March 8
Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

Wang Jian Cello Solo Concert

Who: Wang Jian
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 23
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Pipe Organ Music Week – Organ Music Concert of Bach Classics

Who: Beijing Symphony Orchestra
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 3
Admission: 50-300 yuan

Pipe Organ Music Week – Concert of Classic and Modern Organ Masterpieces

Who: Lio Clayman and Vene Matthew
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 4
Admission: 60-280 yuan

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2008 Musical Festival

Who: Conducted by Yi Zhang
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30 pm, March 8
Admission: 30-480 yuan

Drama

Amber

Who: National Theatre Company of China
Where: National Grand Theater Drama Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 21-30
Admission: 180-600 yuan

Comedy Servant of Two Masters

Who: Piccolo Theater of Milan
Where: National Grand Theater Drama Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 7-9
Admission: 80-480 yuan

Dance

Who: Shanghai Ballet Group
Where: National Grand Theater Drama Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, March 7-9
Admission: 60-380 yuan

(By Li Jing)